
2B

Action

Educator Preparation Committee

Discussion and Potential Adoption of Proposed Precondition Changes Related to the Subject Matter Competence Requirement

Executive Summary: This agenda item presents for Commission consideration and potential action proposed revised language for the Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, and Education Specialist program preconditions. These preconditions require revision in order to reflect the additional options for meeting subject matter competence in accordance with AB 130 (Chap. 44, Stats. 2021) and the associated regulations approved by the Commission at its June 2022 meeting and pending approval by the Office of Administrative Law.

Recommended Action: That the Commission discuss and adopt revised preconditions for the Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, and Education Specialist credential programs.

Presenters: Cheryl Hickey, Administrator and Jake Shuler, Consultant, Professional Services Division

Strategic Plan Goals

II. Program Quality and Accountability

- a) Develop and maintain rigorous, meaningful, and relevant standards that drive program quality and effectiveness for the preparation of the education workforce and are responsive to the needs of California's diverse student population.

Discussion and Potential Adoption of Proposed Precondition Changes Related to the Subject Matter Competence Requirement

Introduction

This agenda item presents proposed revised preconditions for Commission consideration and potential adoption. It is necessary to update these preconditions to align with the changes in California Education Code sections 44259 and 44282 that resulted from passage of Assembly Bill 130 in 2021.

Background

In July 2021, Assembly Bill 130 (Chap. 44, Stats. 2021) created additional options in California Education Code for candidates to demonstrate subject matter competence through (a) degree majors in the subject area of the credential being sought, (b) coursework that covers the domains of the applicable Subject Matter Requirements for the credential sought, or (c) a combination of coursework and examination subtests required for the subject area of the credential sought by the candidate. These new provisions were added to the existing options of successful completion of a Commission-approved subject matter program or passage of the appropriate subject matter exam, currently the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET).

Additionally, over the course of the last year, the Commission has discussed various regulatory language related to these new provisions. At its June 2022 meeting, the Commission-approved [proposed regulations language](#) to be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law. The regulations seek to clarify and standardize implementation of the options to the Subject Matter Competence requirement in Education Code sections 44259 and 44310 that were created in AB 130. For instance, the proposed regulations seek to specify the types of academic majors that would be considered allowable for each type of credential.

There is now a need to align the preconditions to the new law and proposed regulations and to ensure that outdated language is removed. Preconditions reflect either state law, regulations, or Commission policy required of Commission-approved educator preparation programs. Preconditions are intended to be straightforward and compliance-oriented, and therefore program documentation of precondition compliance is typically reviewed by staff. Preconditions are not the same as program standards, which establish Commission expectations for program quality. There are preconditions related to candidate subject matter competence for the Preliminary Multiple Subject (MS), Single Subject (SS), and Education Specialist programs, as well as their respective intern programs. A total of eight preconditions pertain to subject matter competence for these teaching credentials. Staff is proposing revisions to six of the eight preconditions.

The following table represents a summary of proposed changes to the relevant preconditions and the rationale for the changes. The proposed revised language is included on the pages that

follow. The preconditions that contain reference to subject matter competence and need substantive edits are the following:

Program Admission

- MS/SS precondition 5: Program Admission
- Education Specialist precondition 2: Program Admission

Subject Matter Proficiency

- MS/SS precondition 6: Subject Matter Proficiency
- Education Specialist precondition 3: Subject Matter Proficiency

Intern Preconditions

- MS/SS Intern precondition 2: Subject Matter Requirement
- Education Specialist Intern precondition 2: Subject Matter Requirement

Proposed Changes

The table below indicates the specific preconditions and a brief explanation for the proposed revised language.

Current Preconditions	Explanation for Proposed Changes
MS/SS Precondition 5: Program Admission Education Specialist Precondition 2: Program Admission	Given the complexity of the new options for Commission-approved program sponsors, these preconditions are outdated and no longer feasible. Revised language is proposed to ensure that institutions have a systematic and timely process for evaluating whether candidates have demonstrated subject matter competence and provide notification of their options for completing this requirement.
MS/SS Precondition 6: Subject Matter Proficiency Education Specialist Precondition 3: Subject Matter Proficiency:	Proposed revisions to these preconditions reflect current statute and once approved by OAL, the associated regulatory language.
MS/SS Intern Precondition 2: Subject Matter Requirement Education Specialist Intern Precondition 2: Subject Matter Requirement	These preconditions are outdated and need to be revised to reflect all the options available to interns. Statute continues to require all interns to demonstrate subject matter prior to being teacher of record.

Below are changes proposed by staff to include the new options for candidates to demonstrate subject matter competence.

I. Proposed Changes to Multiple Subject and Single Subject Precondition 5 and Education Specialist Precondition 2: Program Admission

Staff proposes that Multiple Subject and Single Subject Precondition 5: Program Admission and Education Specialist Precondition 2: Program Admission be updated using identical language. The focus of the new precondition language would be on ensuring a timely process for assessing each candidate in relation to the subject matter requirement and notification of that standing such that the candidate will know what actions to take to meet the requirement. The language in strikethrough below is the current text of the preconditions and the underlined language is the proposed revised language. To reflect the revised focus of this standard, the title is also proposed to be changed to “Assessing Candidates for Subject Matter Competence.”

Current Text of Both Preconditions

~~Multiple and Single Subject Precondition 5 and Education Specialist Precondition 2: Program Admission.~~

~~The sponsor of a multiple or single subject preliminary teacher preparation program assesses each candidate’s standing in relation to required subject matter preparation during the admissions process. The program admits only those candidates who meet one of the following criteria. Reference: Education Code Sections 44227 (a).~~

- ~~• The candidate provides evidence of having passed the appropriate subject matter examination(s).~~
- ~~• The candidate provides evidence of having attempted the appropriate subject matter examinations(s).~~
- ~~• The candidate provides evidence of registration for the next scheduled examination.~~
- ~~• The candidate provides evidence of having completed a Commission approved the appropriate subject matter preparation program.~~
- ~~• The candidate provides evidence of continuous progress toward meeting the subject matter requirement.~~
- ~~• The candidate provides evidence of enrollment in an organized subject matter examination preparation program.~~

Proposed Text for Both Preconditions

Multiple Subject and Single Subject Precondition 5 and Education Specialist Precondition 2: Assessing Candidates for Subject Matter Competence

The program sponsor has a timely and systematic process for evaluating and notifying candidates of their standing in relation to the subject matter competence requirement. This process includes:

- Providing candidates with clear and accurate information in all advising and application materials about all options available to demonstrate subject matter competence, pursuant to Education Code Section 44259 (b)(5)(a).
- Within the first 60 days of the candidate's admission, the institution must complete an assessment of each candidate's standing in relation to demonstration of the subject matter competence requirement, including whether a coursework evaluation will be needed, and notify the candidate of that standing.

II. Proposed Changes to Multiple Subject and Single Subject Precondition 6 and Education Specialist Precondition 3: Subject Matter Proficiency

Staff proposes that Multiple Subject and Single Subject Precondition 6: Subject Matter Proficiency and Education Specialist Precondition 3: Subject Matter Proficiency be updated using similar language. These two preconditions outline the options for candidates to meet the subject matter competence requirement. They need to be aligned with the new options available after passage of AB 130 in 2021 and, once approved by the Office of Administrative Law, associated regulatory language. Staff proposes changes to these two preconditions that would closely mirror language in statute and updating the titles to better reflect the content. The proposed changes for the Multiple Subject and Single Subject precondition are presented first, followed by an explanation of the language that would be different for Education Specialist programs.

Multiple Subject and Single Subject Precondition 6: ~~Subject Matter Proficiency Demonstration of Subject Matter Competence~~

The approved preliminary teacher preparation program sponsor determines that each candidate meets the subject matter requirement prior to being given daily whole class instructional responsibilities in a TK-12 school, ~~or before becoming the teacher of record as an intern in a TK-12 school.~~ Reference: ~~Education Code Sections 44259 (b) (5).~~

A) For Multiple Subject and Single Subject programs (traditional and intern programs), the candidate provides evidence of having passed the appropriate subject matter examination(s) or having completed the appropriate Commission-approved subject matter preparation program, or a course of study deemed equivalent by the program sponsor. demonstrated subject matter competence through one of the following methods:

- (1) Completion of a subject matter program approved by the Commission on the basis of standards of program quality and effectiveness. Reference: Education Code section 44259 (b)(5)(A)(i)
- (2) Passage of a Commission-approved subject matter examination. Reference: Education Code 44259 section (b)(5)(A)(ii).

- (3) Successful completion of coursework at one or more regionally accredited institution of higher education that addresses each of the domains of the subject matter requirements adopted by the Commission in the content area of the credential pursuant to Section 44282, as verified by a Commission-approved program of professional preparation. Coursework completed at a community or junior college that is regionally accredited by an accrediting agency listed in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (g) of Section 44203 or by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges may count for purposes of this clause. Reference: Education Code section 44259 (b)(5)(A)(iii)
- (4) Successful completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with the following, as applicable.
- (I) For Single Subject credentials, a major in one of the subject areas in which the Commission credentials candidates as indicated in Title 5 section 80096*, Education Code sections 44259(b)(5)(A)(iv)(I) and 44282 (b).
- (II) For Multiple Subject credentials, a liberal studies major or other degree that includes coursework in the content areas as indicated in Title 5 section 80096*, Education Code sections 44259(b)(5)(A)(iv)(II) and 44282 (b).
- (5) A combination of the methods described in 1, 2, or 3 above that together demonstrate that the candidate has met or exceeded the domains of the subject matter requirements adopted by the Commission. Reference: Title 5 section 80096*, Education Code sections 44259 (b)(5)(A)(v), and 44282 (b).

* when approved by the Office of Administrative Law

B) For integrated undergraduate programs only, the candidate must be monitored by the program for subject matter competence both prior to beginning and during early field experiences and throughout the program until such time it has been determined that the candidate has satisfied subject matter competence. Each candidate in an integrated undergraduate program must have satisfied subject matter competence, or at a minimum completed four-fifths of the Commission-approved subject matter preparation program, prior to beginning sole daily whole class instruction. (i.e., student) teaching.

Education Specialist Precondition 3: Subject Matter Proficiency Demonstration of Subject Matter Competence

Staff proposes identical language for Education Specialist Precondition 3: Demonstration of Subject Matter Competence as proposed for the Multiple Subject and Single Subject Precondition 6 above, with the exception of the following modifications.

A) For Education Specialist programs (traditional and intern programs), the candidate provides evidence of having ~~passed the appropriate subject matter examination(s) or having completed the appropriate Commission approved subject matter preparation program, or a course of study deemed equivalent by the program sponsor.~~ demonstrated subject matter competence through one of the following methods:

- Paragraph (4) and (5) would be modified specifically to align with the Education Code section for Education Specialist candidates such that it would read:

(4) Successful completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with either a major in one of the subject areas in which the Commission credentials candidates or a liberal studies or other major that includes coursework in the content areas pursuant to subdivision (b) of Education Code section 44282 and Title 5 section 80096*.

(5) A combination of the methods described in 1, 2, or 3 above that, together, demonstrate that the candidate has met or exceeded the domains of the subject matter requirements adopted by the Commission. Reference: Title 5 section 80096*, Education Code sections 44259 (b)(5)(A)(v), 44282 (b)

* when approved by the Office of Administrative Law

III. Proposed Changes to Intern Precondition 2: Subject Matter Requirement

Commission staff is proposing that Precondition 2 for Multiple Subject, Single Subject, and Education Specialist Intern programs be brought up to date and aligned with the current allowable options in California Education Code.

(2) ~~**Subject Matter Requirement**~~ **Demonstration of Subject Matter Competence.** Each Multiple Subject and Single Subject Intern must demonstrate subject matter competence prior to being recommended for the intern credential ~~admitted into the program has passed the Commission-approved subject matter examinations(s) for the subject area(s) in which the Intern is authorized to teach, and each Single Subject intern admitted into the program has passed the Commission-approved subject matter examination(s) or completed the subject matter program for the subject areas(s) in which the Intern is authorized to teach. Reference: Education Code Section 44325(c)~~ (3 through one of the following methods:

(1) Completion of a subject matter program approved by the Commission on the basis of standards of program quality and effectiveness. Reference: Education Code section 44259 (b)(5)(A)(i)

(2) Passage of a Commission-approved subject matter examination. Reference: Education Code 44259 (b)(5)(A)(ii).

- (3) Successful completion of coursework at one or more regionally accredited institutions of higher education that addresses each of the domains of the subject matter requirements adopted by the Commission in the content area of the credential pursuant to section 44282, as verified by a Commission-approved program of professional preparation. Coursework completed at a community or junior college that is regionally accredited by an accrediting agency listed in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (g) of Section 44203 or by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges may count for purposes of this clause. Reference: Education Code section 44259 (b)(5)(A)(iii).
- (4) Successful completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with the following, as applicable.
- (I) For single subject credentials, a major in one of the subject areas in which the Commission credentials candidates as indicated in Title 5 Section 80096*, Education Code sections 44259 (b)(5)(A)(iv) and 44282 (b).
- (II) For multiple subject credentials, a liberal studies major or other degree that includes coursework in the content areas as indicated in Title 5 Section 80096*, Education Code sections 44259 (b)(5)(A)(iv) and 44282 (b).
- (5) A combination of the methods described in 1, 2, or 3 above that, together, demonstrate that the candidate has met or exceeded the domains of the subject matter requirements adopted by the Commission. Reference: Title 5 section 80096*, Education Code 44259 sections (b)(5)(A)(v), and 44282 (b)*.

* when approved by the Office of Administrative Law

IV. Proposed Changes to Education Specialist Intern Precondition 2: Subject Matter Requirement

Commission staff proposes identical language for Education Specialist Intern Precondition 2: Subject Matter Requirement as proposed for the Multiple Subject and Single Subject Precondition 2 above, except for the following modifications.

(2) ~~Subject Matter Requirement~~ **Demonstration of Subject Matter Competence**: Each Education Specialist Intern must demonstrate subject matter competence prior to being recommended for the intern credential ~~admitted into the program has passed the Commission-approved subject matter examination(s) for the subject area(s) in which the Intern is authorized to teach, and each Single Subject intern admitted into the program has passed the Commission-approved subject matter examination(s) or completed the subject matter program for the subject areas(s) in which the Intern is authorized to teach. Reference: Education Code Section 44325(c) (3~~ through one of the following methods:

- (4) Successful completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with either a major in one of the subject areas in which the Commission credentials candidates or a liberal studies or other major that includes coursework in the content areas pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 44282.
- (5) Demonstration that the candidate, through a combination of the methods described in 1, 2, or 3 above, has met or exceeded each of the domains of the subject matter requirements adopted by the Commission in the content area of the credential pursuant to section 44265.

Current Suspension of Preconditions Due to Pandemic

It is important to note that at the [June 2022 Commission meeting](#), the Commission acted to continue the suspension of the preconditions that require demonstration of subject matter competence prior to daily whole class instruction for student teachers. This suspension was not applicable to intern candidates. Nothing in this agenda item should be construed as proposing to change that action. If the Commission chooses to act to approve the proposed language contained in this agenda item, the suspension of the relevant preconditions related to demonstration of subject matter prior to daily whole class instruction would remain in effect through May 1, 2023, consistent with Commission action in June 2022.

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission discuss and approve the proposed revisions to:

- Multiple and Single Subject Precondition 5 and 6
- Education Specialist Precondition 2 and 3
- Multiple and Single Subject Intern Precondition 2
- Education Specialist Intern Precondition 2

Next Steps

If approved, Commission staff will update the preconditions on its website as well as issue a Program Sponsor Alert to communicate these changes to the field.