



Frequently Asked Questions

Proposed Special Teaching Authorization in Physical Education (PE) Designated Subjects Special Subjects (DSSS) in Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and Basic Military Drill (BMD)

1. What is the proposed Special Teaching Authorization in Physical Education for Designated Subjects Teaching Credential holders in Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and Basic Military Drill (BMD)?

The Special Teaching Authorization in Physical Education (PE) for DSSS Teaching Credential holders in ROTC and BMD would recognize that Junior ROTC (JROTC) and BMD teachers who meet PE subject matter requirements and satisfy the basic skills requirement have met a higher standard to teach PE in the context of a JROTC or BMD course. It would not have an impact on the range of courses these credential holders can teach.

2. Why is the proposed Special Teaching Authorization in PE needed?

The Commission issues teaching credentials to educators who meet the minimum requirements established in statute and/or regulations. These credentials authorize the holders to teach specific courses based on their preparation. DSSS–ROTC/BMD Credential holders who meet the higher standard of subject matter competence by passing the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) in PE or by completing an approved PE subject matter program will have that higher level of preparation recognized on their credential.

3. How would a teacher earn the proposed Special Teaching Authorization in PE?

Holders of DSSS-ROTC/BMD Credentials who additionally satisfy the basic skills requirement, and pass the CSET in PE or complete an approved PE subject matter program would qualify for the Special Teaching Authorization.

4. Why aren't these teachers required to hold a bachelor's degree like other teachers?

The Designated Subjects Credential series recognizes experience in a particular employment sector as equivalent to a bachelor's degree for the purpose of credentialing. The Commission issues Designated Subjects Credentials to individuals in a wide range of business and industry sectors, and these credentials are most often used in Career Technical Education programs offered in California's high schools. DSSS –ROTC/BMD Credential experience requirements include at least four years of military service; preparation requirements include at least 135 hours of teacher preparation in a Commission approved program.

5. Will all DSSS-JROTC/BMD teachers be required to hold this proposed Special Teaching Authorization in PE?

No. The Special Teaching Authorization in PE will be added to the credential of a JROTC/BMD teacher if they pass a basic skills test and satisfy the subject matter competence requirement. Holders of the DSSS Credential who do not complete these requirements will still be authorized, by school board action, on a local teaching assignment option in the Education Code or Title 5 regulations, to teach PE in the context of JROTC or BMD courses that have been approved to carry PE credit. Teachers who earn the Special Teaching Authorization will be recognized as having met a higher standard.

6. What may teachers who earn this proposed Special Teaching Authorization in PE teach?

Holders of this Special Teaching Authorization in PE would only be able to teach JROTC or BMD courses that have been approved by their local school board to carry PE credit. DSSS-ROTC/BMD teachers can already teach these courses under current law; the Special Teaching Authorization will recognize that they have met a higher standard of subject matter competence than the regular DSSS-ROTC/BMD credential requires.

7. Would holders of the proposed Special Teaching Authorization be allowed to teach regular PE courses?

No. Holders of the Special Teaching Authorization would only be authorized to teach PE in the context of a JROTC or Basic Military Drill course that has been approved by the local school board to award PE credit. This is consistent with current practice, which would not be impacted by this change.

8. How can JROTC/BMD courses qualify for PE credit?

Current law provides local school boards the authority to offer PE credit for a JROTC/BMD course as part of the high school curriculum provided the course meets the *Physical Education Content Standards for California Public Schools* adopted by the State Board of Education and the local governing board takes special action at a public meeting to grant PE credit for these courses. Under current law, DSSS Teaching Credential holders in ROTC/BMD may currently teach these courses.

9. Will adding the proposed Special Teaching Authorization in PE to the DSSS Credential require local school boards to allow JROTC or BMD courses to count for PE?

No. Local school boards will retain full authority to evaluate JROTC or BMD courses and determine whether they will qualify for PE credit. This authorization in PE will not impact a local school board's authority in any way.

10. If the Commission adopts these regulations, will more students be able to opt out of general PE courses in favor of JROTC/BMD courses?

The availability of JROTC/BMD courses and programs is a local decision, and adding the Special Teaching Authorization in PE to the credential is not expected to enable or constrain the growth of these programs. There are currently 60 California Cadet Corps (CACC) and 360 JROTC programs operating in California. The CACC enrolls about 6,000 students, and JROTC enrolls about 40,000 students statewide, representing approximately 2.3% of 9th -12th grade students enrolled in California public schools. There are federal limits on the number of programs of JROTC. While there are no limits on the number of CACC programs that can be offered by the state, growth would depend on the availability of resources to support expansion.