

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Title 5. Education, Division 8 Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Proposed Amendments to California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Pertaining to Changes to the Basic Skills Requirement

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) proposes to take the regulatory action described below after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action. A copy of the proposed regulations is included with the added text underlined and the deleted text lined out.

The Commission has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the Commission will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or their authorized representative, no later than 15 days before the close of the comment period.

Written Comment Period

Any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed action by fax, through the mail, or by email. The written comment period closes on February 23, 2026. Comments must be received by that time or may be submitted at the public hearing, should one be requested. Interested parties may fax their response to (916) 327-3165; write to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Attn: Mika Laidler-Rubio, Commission on Teacher Credentialing, 651 Bannon Street, Suite 601, Sacramento, CA 95811; or submit an email to Mika.Laidler-Rubio@ctc.ca.gov. Alternatively, contact Christina.Villanueva@ctc.ca.gov

Any written comments received by the closing of the public comment period will be reproduced by the Commission's staff for each member of the Commission as a courtesy to the person submitting the comments and will be included in the written agenda prepared for and presented to the full Commission at the hearing.

Authority

Education Code section 44225(h) and 44225(q) authorizes the Commission to adopt the proposed regulations and amendments.

Reference

Education Code sections 44252, 44252.5, 44259, 44260.2, 44270.3, 44274.2, 44275.4, and 44300.

Information Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Summary of Existing Laws and Effect of the Proposed Action

Prior to the passage of Senate Bill 153 (Chap. 38, Stats 2024), effective June 29, 2024, in most cases the Commission was prohibited from initially issuing a credential, permit, certificate, or renewal of an emergency credential to a person to serve in the public schools unless the person had demonstrated

proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills in the English language by completing one of several options that satisfy the basic skills requirement (BSR). In addition, California Education Code prohibited the governing board of a school district from initially hiring on a permanent, temporary, or substitute basis a certificated person seeking employment in the capacity designated in the certificated person's credential unless that person had demonstrated basic skills proficiency or was exempt from the basic skills requirement.

Prior to the passage of Senate Bill 153, the minimum requirements for the following credentials, among other documents, included the demonstration of basic skills proficiency: the Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, or Education Specialist credential, the 3-year Preliminary Designated Subjects Adult Education teaching credential, and the Preliminary Administrative Services credential for an out-of-state trained administrator. However, with the passage of Senate Bill 153, the requirement to demonstrate basic skills proficiency as a condition of these credentials can now be met by the possession of a bachelor's (or higher) degree earned at a regionally accredited college or university.

The Commission proposes amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) §§80021, 80021.1, 80022, 80023.2, 80025, 80025.1, 80025.2, 80025.3, 80033, 80036.4, 80037, 80038, 80048.3.1, 80048.3.2, 80048.8, 80048.9, 80048.9.1, 80048.9.2, 80048.9.4, 80049, 80050, 80053, 80054, 80054.1, 80055.1, 80055.2, 80061.1, 80071.4, 80413, and 80413.3 resulting from statutory changes authorized by Senate Bill 153. This bill amended Education Code sections 44252.5, 44259, 44260.2, 44270.3, 44274.2, 44275.4, and 44300, adding a provision that allows possession of a bachelor's (or higher) degree earned at a regionally accredited college or university to meet BSR. The law also removes the BSR as a requirement for earning any credential or permit where the applicant must hold a bachelor's degree. The proposed amendments will bring regulations into alignment with current statutes, provide consistency in regulatory language, and clarify requirements for applicants. Additionally, outdated language referencing the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) as the only way to satisfy BSR is proposed to be updated to align with current statutory requirements.

Outdated language related to the application process is also proposed to be revised for consistency with existing regulatory language referencing application requirements.

Impact on Applicants

This new provision will allow applicants for any credential or permit that requires a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution to satisfy the BSR by submitting official transcripts showing conferral of a qualifying degree. Applicants will no longer be required to provide any supporting basic skills materials (such as exam scores, course descriptions or coursework evaluation forms) when the applicant has verified conferral of a bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Degrees Earned Outside of the United States

A bachelor's degree (or higher) earned outside the United States must be deemed equivalent to

a degree earned at a regionally accredited college or university in the United States to meet licensure requirements and satisfy the BSR. Educators that earned their degrees from outside of the United States must obtain an evaluation of their transcripts through a Commission-approved Foreign Transcript Evaluating Agency.

Impact on Current Credential Holders

Educators who hold a Preliminary California credential based on out-of-state or out-of-country preparation may currently have the BSR listed as a renewal requirement on their credential, represented by the “RC” renewal code. Since a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college is a requirement for the initial issuance of the teaching credential itself, these educators have now met BSR via this new exemption. The requirement may now be disregarded as a renewal requirement, and no further action is required from the educator or employer concerning the BSR. If the “RC” code is the only renewal requirement code listed on an individual’s Preliminary credential, the educator will qualify for a Clear credential.

Impact on Local Educational Agencies

Due to this new provision, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) may see an increase in the number of qualified applicants for permits and credentials, and credential analysts may experience a reduction in evaluation times for credentials and permits requiring the BSR. Furthermore, employing agencies are no longer required to cease employment for out-of-state prepared teachers who have not yet met the BSR after one year from the issuance date of their credential. This provision allows educators prepared out-of-state and outside the United States to continue employment for the full duration of their Preliminary credential, as a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution is a requirement for the initial issuance of all out-of-state prepared credentials and therefore satisfies the BSR.

Impact on Program Sponsors

When evaluating credential candidate requirements, credential analysts at Commission approved programs can now accept the bachelor’s degree to meet both the degree requirement and the BSR.

Anticipated Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

The broad objectives of these regulations are to ensure integrity, relevance, and high quality in the preparation and certification of the educators who serve all of California’s diverse students. The proposed amendments to these regulations set forth an effort to reduce barriers and streamline the licensure process for educators in California.

Determination of Inconsistency/Incompatibility with Existing State Regulations

The Commission has determined that the proposed regulation amendments are not inconsistent or incompatible with existing regulations. After conducting a review of any regulations that would relate to or affect this area, the Commission has concluded that these are the only regulations that concern the BSR as a condition for licensure.

Disclosures Regarding the Proposed Actions/Fiscal Impact

The Commission has made the following initial determinations.

Mandate on local agencies or school districts:

None

Fiscal Impact

Costs to any local agency or school district which must be reimbursed in accordance with Government Code sections 17500 through 17630:

None.

Cost or savings to any state agency:

None.

Other non-discretionary costs or savings imposed upon local agencies:

None.

Cost or savings in federal funding to the state:

None.

Significant effect on housing costs:

None

Significant Statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states:

None.

Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Statement of the Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.3(b), the Commission has made the following assessments regarding the proposed regulations:

The Commission concludes that it is unlikely that the proposal will (1) create or eliminate any jobs, (2) create any new businesses, (3) eliminate any existing businesses (4) expand any businesses currently doing business within the state of California.

Benefits of the regulation to the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment

The benefits of these proposed regulation amendments are to make it easier for educators to become

licensed and continue their employment without interruption so they can continue to better serve California students.

The Commission does not anticipate that the proposed regulations will result in an increase in the protection of public health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, or the environment, or an increase in openness and transparency in business.

Small Business Determination

This regulatory action will not affect small businesses because it solely revises individual credentialing requirements in accordance with Senate Bill 153 and does not create any new duties, costs, or compliance obligations for businesses.

Consideration of Alternatives

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.5, subdivision (a)(13), the Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

The Commission invites interested persons to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulations during the written comment period.

Contact Persons

Inquiries concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be directed to:

Mika Laidler-Rubio
Commission on Teacher Credentialing
651 Bannon Street, Suite 601,
Sacramento, CA 95811
Email: Mika.Laidler-Rubio@ctc.ca.gov

The backup contact person for these inquiries is:

Christina Villanueva
Commission on Teacher Credentialing
651 Bannon Street, Suite 601,
Sacramento, CA 95811
Email: Christina.Villanueva@ctc.ca.gov

Availability of Statement of Reasons, Text of Proposed Regulations, and Rulemaking File

The Commission will make the entire rulemaking file available for inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at the Commission office at the above address. As of the date this notice is published in the Notice of Register, the rulemaking file consists of the Notice of Proposed Action, the proposed text of regulations, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the STD. 399. The rulemaking file for this regulatory action, which contains those items mentioned above, and all information on which the proposal is based (i.e. rulemaking file) is available to the public upon request directed to the department's contact person. Please direct requests to inspect or copy the rulemaking file to the backup contact person listed above, Christina Villanueva.

Availability of Changed or Modified Text

After considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Commission may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If the Commission makes modifications that are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text (with the changes clearly indicated) available to the public for at least 15 days before adopting the regulations as revised. Please direct requests for copies of any modified regulations to the contact person(s) listed above. If substantive modifications are made, the Commission will accept written comments on the modified regulations for the duration of the period of public availability.

Availability of Final Statement of Reasons

Upon its completion, the Commission will make copies of the Final Statement of Reasons available. Please direct requests for copies to the contact person(s) listed above.

Availability of Documents on the Internet

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulations with modifications highlighted, as well as the Final Statement of Reasons, when completed, and modified text and notices thereof, if any, may be accessed via the Commission's website at <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/rulemaking.html>.