



Credential Information Alert

DATE:

March 29, 2024

NUMBER:

24-05

SUBJECT: PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential Authorization Assignments

Summary:

This Credential Information Alert (CIA) provides information related to the authorizations and assignments for the PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential. The additions and amendments to Title 5 California Code of Regulations (CCR) related to the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and are effective as of April 1, 2024. These provisions create a new credential that authorizes the holder to teach in a self-contained general education classroom setting in preschool through grade three. Three new sections were adopted that pertain to credentialing programs, program standards, and teaching performance expectations. This CIA includes information related to Title 5 CCR §80067 which includes the credential authorization.

Key Provisions:

The additions and amendments to Title 5 California Code of Regulations (CCR) related to the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and are effective as of April 1, 2024. Three new sections were adopted that pertain to credentialing programs, program standards, and teaching performance expectations.

The PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential is designed with a focus on early childhood education and supports the statewide effort to implement Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK). It authorizes the holder to teach in a self-contained general education classroom setting in preschool through grade three.

Assigning Educators

PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential Authorization Statement:

Every credential issued by the Commission contains an authorization statement that provides the instruction or services the credential holder is authorized to provide. The authorization statement on a currently issued teaching credential indicates the subject area(s), classroom setting, and grade level(s) authorized.

Below is the text of the approved and adopted authorization statement for the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential provided in Title 5 CCR §80067(f)(1):

“This credential authorizes the holder to teach all subjects in a self-contained general education classroom setting and, as a self-contained classroom teacher, to team teach or to regroup students across classrooms, in preschool through grade three.”

A self-contained classroom is one in which the same group of students are taught multiple subjects by one educator throughout the day. The table below provides a summary of the authorization’s attributes.

<i>Setting</i>	<i>Classroom Type</i>	<i>Grade levels</i>	<i>Subjects</i>
General Education	Self-Contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool• Transitional Kindergarten• Kindergarten• Grades 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All in a self-contained classroom• Reading up to grade 3 in a departmentalized setting

Comparison between the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction and the Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials

The Multiple Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach in a general education self-contained setting in grades twelve and below, including preschool, and in classes organized primarily for adults. The Multiple Subject Teaching Credential authorization statement is provided below:

“This credential authorizes the holder to teach all subjects in a self-contained class and, as a self-contained classroom teacher, to team teach or to regroup students across classrooms, in grades twelve and below, including preschool, and in classes organized primarily for adults. In addition, this credential authorizes the holder to teach core classes consisting of two or more subjects to the same group of students in grades five through eight, and to teach any of the core subjects he or she is teaching to a single group of students in the same grade level as the core for less than fifty percent of his or her workday.”

The authorization statement for the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential parallels that of the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential in some areas but differs in others. While a holder of the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential is authorized to teach in a general education self-contained classroom at any grade level, holders of the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential are limited to teaching in preschool through grade three, including Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten. Below is a comparison between the authorizations for the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential and the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential.

Key Assignment Features	PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential (PK3)	Multiple Subject Teaching Credential (TC2)
Setting	General Education Self-Contained Classroom	General Education Self-Contained Classroom
Grade Level Authorized	Preschool through grade 3	PK- 12, and in classes organized primarily for adults
Departmentalized Reading	Preschool through grade 3	PK-12, and in classes organized primarily for adults
Regrouping ¹	Authorized	Authorized
Team Teaching ²	Authorized	Authorized
Core Setting ³	Not Authorized	Authorized

1. Regrouping occurs when two or more teachers each teach all the subjects in a self-contained classroom, but group their students for one or more of those subjects. Students may be grouped by their learning level. For example, one teacher may take the below-grade level math students from two or more classes, while another teacher takes the above-grade level math students.

2. Team teaching occurs when two teachers of the same grade level divide their self-contained classroom instruction based on each teacher's strengths in a specific subject area. For example, one teacher might provide instruction in English language arts to both classes (at different times), while the other teacher teaches science to both classes (at different times).

3. Core Setting refers to flexibility afforded by Education Code §44258.1 which allows the holder of a credential authorizing teaching in a self-contained setting to teach two or more subjects to the same group of students in the same day, in grades 5 through 8 only. Due to this grade limitation, the holder of the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential is not authorized to teach in a core setting, and therefore this is not included in the authorization statement.

English Learner (EL) Assignments in Preschool through Grade 3

English Learners identified in TK-12 public schools in California are required to receive services designed to meet their linguistic and academic needs based on assessments made by the local employing agency. Pursuant to Education Code §44253.1, California’s English Learners must be taught by teachers who have “...essential skills and knowledge related to English Language development, specially designed content instruction delivered in English, and content instruction

delivered in the pupil's primary languages." All educators providing instruction in grades Kindergarten (including Transitional Kindergarten) through grade 12 with at least one English Learner in their classroom must provide the required level of English Learner services and hold the appropriate authorization that aligns with that level of service.

Pursuant to Title 5 CCR §80067(f)(2), the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential is issued with the following authorization statement:

"The following instructional services may be provided to English learners in the settings and content area(s) specified on this document: (1) English language development defined as instruction designed specifically for limited-English-proficient students to develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English; and (2) specially designed content instruction delivered in English defined as instruction in a subject area, delivered in English, that is specially designed to meet the needs of limited-English-proficient students. This English learner authorization also covers classes taught on the basis of other valid, non-emergency credentials or permits held within the settings or content/specialty area(s) listed at the grade or age levels authorized."

This authorization (ELAP) aligns with the limited EL authorizations issued on the Single Subject Teaching Credential (ELAS), Multiple Subject Teaching Credential (ELAM), and Education Specialist Instruction Credential (ELAE). The holder is authorized to provide Designated ELD and Integrated ELD services but is not authorized to teach Departmentalized ELD. Departmentalized ELD is a stand-alone, departmentalized course covering English Language Development standards only, and requires either a full English Learner Authorization or a Bilingual Authorization. For additional information related to the requirements for the full English Learner Authorization, refer to [CL-628C](#).

The PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential may be issued with a Bilingual Authorization if all requirements are satisfied. Educators providing bilingual instruction must hold both the appropriate authorization for the academic content and a Bilingual Authorization that aligns with the language of instruction. For additional information regarding the requirements for earning the Bilingual Authorization, refer to [CL-628b](#).

Intern Document Restrictions

Pursuant to Title 5 CCR §80067(f)(4), a holder of the Intern PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential (Auth Code R10P) is restricted to service with the California employing agency identified by the Commission approved program sponsor.

Assignment Monitoring Through the California Statewide Assignment Accountability System (CalSAAS)

Any updates related to assignment monitoring in CalSAAS will be released in an Assignment Monitoring News Alert. Subscribe to the [Assignment Monitoring News Email List](#) to receive emails regarding updates to monitoring guidance or new assignment related web resources. Contact the California Department of Education's CALPADS Operations Office with any questions related to how to appropriately report an assignment in CALPADS.

Important Dates:

Effective Date: April 1, 2024

Sources:

Title 5 California Code of Regulations §80067

Resources:

Assignment Resources Self-Contained Classrooms Page:

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/assignment-resources/ar-self-contained-class>

Assignment Resources Self-Contained Elementary Teaching Documents Page:

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/assignment-resources/self-contained-elementary-teaching-documents>

Assignment Resources Transitional Kindergarten Page:

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/assignment-resources/transitional-kindergarten>

Contact Information:

Questions can be directed to the Commission's Information Services Unit at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.

Assignment related questions must be directed to the entity that serves as the monitoring authority for the Local Education Agency (LEA). County Offices of Education may contact the Commission's Assignment Unit directly with assignment-related questions regarding certificated staffing through the dedicated COE email address. County personnel who do not have access to the dedicated email address may request it by sending their full name, position, and county office of employment to credentials@ctc.ca.gov.