

Update on the Transition of Education Specialist Programs to Revised Program Standards and November 2010

Overview of this Report

This agenda item provides an update on the transition process of the Education Specialist and Other Related Services programs from the prior standards to the ones recently adopted by the Commission. At the May 2010 COA meeting, the process through which an approved educator preparation program transitions to updated program standards was described (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/coa-agendas/2010-05/2010-05-item-14.pdf>). In addition, this item provides an update on recent legislation related to individuals teaching students with autism.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Background

Historically when program standards were reviewed and revised, all approved programs were given a specified amount of time to transition to the updated standards. In addition to transitioning the credential program, the sponsor was required to submit a program proposal addressing the updated standards. The program proposal would complete the initial program review process and be presented to the COA for approval. In working with the Commission staff responsible for writing and distributing press releases, a distinction was identified between a program that is completely new to an approved institution and a program that has been offered at an approved institution for a period of time that is being updated to address revised standards. Staff began to investigate how other organizations implement revised standards and to think about the current accreditation system with its activities distributed across the seven years of the accreditation cycle.

Transition of Programs within the Revised Accreditation System

Beginning with the Education Specialist standards revision, the Commission is implementing a standard transition process that parallels the NCATE process for some credential areas. The Commission's accreditation system is now a seven year cycle of accreditation activities. Institutions and the approved programs are interacting with the Commission across the seven year cycle. Provided in Appendix A is a listing of the approved Education Specialist Level I programs, by content area, as well as the date identified as the transition date for the institution.

The decision to transition programs rather than require each Education Specialist program to complete the initial program review process was based on a number of considerations:

- To allow programs time for a thorough and careful review of the revised standards and the implications for the current program but still require the transition to the new program standards and authorization statements in a reasonable timeframe.
- To save time and effort on the part of the program in writing a program proposal that will likely need updating within the first year of implementation.
- To allow programs to begin implementation and then finalize the program narrative.

- To allow for a more meaningful review by the Commission after one to two years of implementation.

The revised Education Specialist and Other Related Services credential program standards are not significantly different from the prior program standards with the exception of preparation for teachers to work with students on the autism spectrum. All of the new Education Specialist preliminary credential programs will include preparation to teach students on the autism spectrum and providing services to students with autism is included in the updated preliminary authorizations.

An institution may begin to offer the revised preliminary program anytime between January 1, 2010 and September 1, 2011. In addition to ‘transitioning’ to the revised preliminary teacher preparation program, a sponsor may begin to offer one or more of the new Added Authorization programs. The Added Authorization (AASE) programs are each a portion of one or more of the full preliminary teaching credential programs.

There are six Added Authorization programs that are eligible to be offered at this time. Three additional added authorization programs will be available for institutions to offer once the regulatory process has been completed.

Table 2: Added Authorization Programs for Special Education

Added Authorization Programs (AASE)	
Regulations Final July 2009	Regulatory Process Not Yet Concluded*
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	Adapted Physical Education (APE)
Deaf-Blind (DB)	Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
Emotional Disturbance (ED)	Resource Specialist (RS)
Orthopedic Impairments (OI)	
Other Health Impairments (OHI)	
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)	

*Public Hearing is scheduled for December 10, 2010

An institution may offer one or more of the added authorization programs without completing the initial program review process if the content of the AASE program was already contained in one of the approved Level I programs offered by the institution. For example: An institution offering an Education Specialist Level I program in either Moderate/Severe disabilities or Early Childhood Special Education has been teaching the content for individuals to teach students on the autism spectrum because that content was required previously in the standards for Moderate/Severe Level I and Early Childhood Special Education Level I programs. Therefore the institution may transition into offering an AASE program for Autism Spectrum Disorder without going through the complete initial program review process because one or more of the institution’s programs have already been offering this content.

The AASE in ASD program would be offered to individuals without an authorization to teach students on the autism spectrum who need or want to hold the authorization, i.e., those who hold the current Education Specialist Level I credential in Mild/Moderate disabilities; while those

enrolled in the program implemented under the new standards would not need the added authorization because the new program already contains the content.

The table below lists the current Level I programs and which Preliminary and Added Authorization Programs an institution may transition without completing Initial Program Review (IPR).

Table 3: Programs Eligible to Transition to Preliminary and AA Programs

Current Level I Program	Transitioned Programs	
	Preliminary Program	Added Authorization Program
MM	MM	ED, OHI
MS	MS	ASD, DB, ED
DHH	DHH	DB
VI	VI	DB
PHI	PHI	OHI, OI, TBI
ECSE	ECSE	ASD, ED, TBI

Process to Transition a Credential Program When Initial Program Review is Not Required

The institution must complete a number of steps to transition its education specialist credential programs to the new standards and authorizations. The steps are listed below:

- A. Review the newly adopted standards and analyze the current program against the revised standards.
- B. Gather faculty and staff to plan the transition.
- C. Complete any internal institutional approval process required (not a CTC process).
- D. Submit a Transition Plan to the Commission 60 days prior to the transition date. (All institutions offering one or more approved Education Specialist programs were asked to identify the Transition Date for the institution by fall 2009.)

The Transition Plan document asks the program sponsor to respond to two questions:

- 1. Please describe the process your program engaged in to address the modified standards.
- 2. Describe the changes that your program will be making to your courses and field experiences to address the modified standards. Please also provide your timeline for implementing your newly revised courses and field experiences.

Commission staff will review the Transition Plan document prior to the intended transition date. Once the Transition Plan is reviewed, the institution is notified that it may begin to offer the transitioned program, and the COA is notified of the transitioned program at its next meeting in agenda item 6, Part B.

Once confirmation is received from Commission staff, the transitioned program may be offered to candidates and it must complete the following steps:

- A. Monitor the early implementation of the program and modify the program as needed.
- B. Finalize the Program Narrative
- C. Collect updated course syllabi or documents detailing the course of study
- D. Prepare to submit program documentation to the Commission when required.

Review of Programs When Initial Program Review is Not Required

When the timing allows, the transitioned program will be reviewed through Program Assessment or possibly at the accreditation site visit. Staff is committed to a review of all transitioned programs within two years of the program's transition. Education Specialist programs may transition anytime between January 1, 2010 and September 1, 2011. The transition date an institution selects and its accreditation cohort will determine when and through what accreditation activity the transitioned program is reviewed. As the updated Education Specialist program standards are fully implemented, all members of the Board of Institutional Reviewers (BIR) who serve on Program Assessment and/or site visit teams focusing on Education Specialist programs will need to participate in an update on the revised standards and complete recalibration activities to ensure fair and objective reviews take place.

The Commission staff held a technical assistance meeting on Wednesday, April 28 to provide this information to all approved Education Specialist programs. A program may submit its updated program narrative and supporting documentation (course syllabi) to be reviewed through the Program Assessment process as soon as it is ready and no later than eighteen months after beginning to offer the transitioned program.

Programs are strongly encouraged to submit the updated program narrative and supporting documentation to be reviewed prior to the accreditation site visit if at all possible. The Program Assessment process is designed to have two members of the BIR review the program narrative together. At an accreditation site visit, it is very unlikely that there will be two team members with the appropriate expertise on the team to review each of the Education Specialist programs. If the program narrative has been reviewed prior to the accreditation site visit through the Program Assessment process, then the Education Specialist programs will participate in the sampling and confirmation process at the site visit as do all other educator preparation programs.

Employment Option to Teach Students with Autism: Sunset Date Extension

AB 2160 (Bass) was signed by the Governor and Chaptered by the Secretary of State (Chap. 134, Stats. 2010). The bill extends the sunset date for an employment option allowing teachers authorized to teach students with mild/moderate disabilities to also teach students with autism until October 1, 2013. Information was provided to the field in Coded Correspondence 10-15 which was released on September 7, 2010 (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2010/1015.pdf>)

Individuals who are eligible for the employment option must have the local employing agency or school verify that the individual has either 1) one year of full-time, or equivalent, serving pupils with autism prior to September 1, 2007 and a favorable evaluation or 2) completed a minimum of three semester units of course work in the subject of autism. The purpose of this legislation is

to allow individuals holding an Ed Sp MM credential to have time to complete one of the Added Authorization programs in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to update the COA as the Education Specialist programs complete the transition to the revised standards.

Appendix A

Approved Education Specialist Preliminary Teaching Programs October 2010

	MM	MS	ECSE	DHH	VI	PHI	Transition Date
California State University Programs							
Bakersfield	X	X					1/2011
Channel Islands	X						8/2010
Chico	X	X					9/2010
Dominguez Hills	X	X	X				1/2010
East Bay	X	X					6/2011
Fresno	X	X		X			1/2011
Fullerton	X	X	X				1/2010
Humboldt	X	X					9/2010
Long Beach	X	X					8/2010
Los Angeles	X	X	X		X	X	6/2010
Monterey Bay	X	X					5/2011
Northridge	X	X	X	X			5/2010
Pomona	X	X					9/2011
Sacramento	X	X	X				9/2010
San Bernardino	X	X	X				1/2010
San Diego State	X	X	X				1/2011
San Francisco State	X	X	X		X	X	8/2010
San Jose State	X	X	X	X			8/2010
San Luis Obispo	X						6/2010
San Marcos	X	X					1/2011
Sonoma State	X	X					8/2010
Stanislaus	X	X					1/2011
University of California Programs							
UCLA	X						1/2010
UCR	X	X					8/2011
UCSB		X					1/2010
UCSD				X			?
Private College and University Programs							
Alliant International University	X						9/2011
Antioch-Los Angeles	X						7/2011
Antioch- Santa Barbara	X						8/2010

	MM	MS	ECSE	DHH	VI	PHI	Transition
Azusa Pacific University	X	X					1/2010
Brandman University	X	X					8/2010
California Baptist University	X	X					9/2010
California Lutheran University	X	X		X			9/2010
Chapman University	X	X					9/2010
Claremont Graduate University	X	X					1/2011
Dominican University	X						8/2010
Fresno Pacific University	X	X	X			X	8/2011
Holy Names College	X						8/2010
Loyola Marymount University	X						1/2010
Mills College			X				9/2011
Mount St. Mary's College	X						8/2010
National Hispanic University	X						1/2011
National University	X	X		X			1/2011
Notre Dame de Namur University	X	X					9/2010
Pacific Oaks College	X						1/2011
Point Loma Nazarene University	X	X					1/2011
Santa Clara University	X		X				6/2011
St. Mary's College	X	X					6/2010
Touro University	X	X					1/2010
University of La Verne	X						9/2011
University of San Diego	X	X	X	X			8/2010
University of San Francisco	X						6/2010
University of the Pacific	X	X					1/2011
District and County Office of Education Programs							
Fortune School of Education (Mt Diablo USD)	X						5/2011
LAUSD	X	X					?
Oakland USD	X	X					2/2010
Orange COE	X						2/2010
San Diego Unified	X						inactive
San Joaquin COE-Project Impact	X	X	X				1/2010
Stanislaus COE	X	X					9/2010

Bold = the programs have transitioned to the recently adopted standards

Approved Clear Education Specialist Credential Programs

October 12, 2010

Butte County Office of Education
North Coast BTSA (Sonoma COE)
North State BTSA (Tehama COE)
Sacramento County Office of Education
Santa Rosa City School District
Tri-County BTSA (Sutter COE)
Ventura County Office of Education
Yolo-Solano BTSA (Davis JUSD)

On the agenda for approval at the November 5, 2010 COA meeting

Azusa Pacific University
El Dorado COE
Napa County BTSA Induction Program
Tustin Unified School District

Approved Special Education Added Authorization Programs

October 12, 2010

	<i>Online Option</i>	ASD	DB	ED	OI	OHI	TBI
California State University (CSU)							
Cal Poly, Pomona	Yes	X					
CSU Bakersfield		X					
CSU, Chico		X					
CSU, Dominguez Hills		X					
CSU, Fullerton	Yes	X					
CSU, Northridge		X					
CSU, San Bernardino		X					
CSU, San Marcos		X		X			
San Diego State University		X		X			
San Francisco State University		X			X		
Sonoma State		X					
University of California (UC)							
	<i>Online Option</i>	ASD	DB	ED	OI	OHI	TBI
UC Los Angeles		X		X			
UC Riverside		X					
Private Institutions							
	<i>Online Option</i>	ASD	DB	ED	OI	OHI	TBI
Alliant University		X					
Azusa Pacific University	Yes	X		X			
Brandman University	Yes	X					
<i>California Baptist</i>		X					
<i>California Lutheran University</i>		X					
Claremont Graduate		X					
<i>Dominican</i>		X					
Fresno Pacific University		X					
Mount St. Mary's		X		X			
National Hispanic		X					
National University	Yes	X					
Point Loma Nazarene University		X					
Touro University		X					
Other Sponsors							
	<i>Online Option</i>	ASD	DB	ED	OI	OHI	TBI
<i>Capistrano Unified School District</i>		X					
Madera County Office of Education	Yes	X					
Orange COE		X					

	<i>Online Option</i>	ASD	DB	ED	OI	OHI	TBI
Project Impact (San Joaquin COE)		X					
Stanislaus COE		X					
Ventura County Office of Education		X					

Italics = pending action at the November 2010 COA meeting

Other Related Services Programs

October 12, 2010

	Audiology	Orientation & Mobility	Speech-Language Pathology	Transition Date
California State University Chico			X	8/2011
California State University East Bay			X	6/2011
California State University Fresno			X	1/2011
California State University Fullerton			X	8/2010
California State University Long Beach			X	8/2010
California State University Los Angeles		X	X	6/2010
California State University Northridge			X	8/2010
California State University Sacramento			X	8/2010
California State University San Marcos			X	1/2011
San Diego State University			X	9/2011
San Francisco State University	X	X	X	7/2010
San Jose State University			X	8/2010
<i>Chapman University</i>				<i>NA</i>
Loma Linda University			X	9/2011
University of the Pacific			X	1/2011
University of Redlands			X	9/2011

Bold = the programs have transitioned to the recently adopted standards

Italics = Program in the Initial Program Review Process