

Update on COVID Flexibilities

January 2021

Overview of the Report

This agenda item provides an update on Commission action with respect to flexibilities afforded to programs and candidates due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Recommendation

This item is for information only.

Background

Since March 2020, the Commission has responded to the COVID 19 pandemic and the impact it has had on educator preparation programs and the ability for candidates to complete their credential requirements. In so doing, the Governor, the Legislature and the Commission have enacted a variety of flexibilities. A summary of the current flexibilities is included as an appendix to this item.

Most recently, staff has been working with a group of program leaders, district and county office personnel, and induction experts to help identify what more will need to be done to address the needs of current candidates as they prepare enter the education profession. The Commission will discuss this topic at its February 11-12, 2021 meeting. At the January 2021 COA meeting, staff will report orally on the agenda item being presented to the Commission and any other flexibilities or actions that may be taken by the Commission at its meeting.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to implement the array of COVID flexibilities set forth by the Commission.

Appendix
COVID Flexibilities

	Summary of Flexibility	Eligible for Use	Authority and Conditions
TPA/APA	Move performance assessment requirement (TPA/APA) to the Clear Credential if impacted by COVID. The performance assessment must be passed prior to recommendation for the clear credential.	March 19, 2020-August 31, 2021	Authority: EO and SB 820 Conditions: Enrolled in program, met all requirements other than the performance assessment, COVID prevents completion
RICA	Move RICA requirement to the Clear Credential if impacted by COVID. The assessment must be passed prior to recommendation for the clear credential.	March 19, 2020-August 31, 2021	Authority: EO and SB 820 Conditions: Unable to take RICA due to COVID
CBEST	Waive requirement of CBEST for Program Entry and the requirements for programs to use the CBEST data to support candidates. Basic Skills must be met prior to recommendation for the credential.	March 19, 2020-August 31, 2021	Authority: EO and SB 820 Conditions: For prospective candidates unable to take the exam
Subject Matter - Interns	Waive Subject Matter Requirement for Interns to enter the Intern program. The subject matter requirement must meet be met prior to recommendation for the Preliminary credential.	March 19, 2020-August 31, 2021	Authority: EO and SB 820 Conditions: Unable to take CSET due to COVID
Subject Matter – Student teaching	Waive Subject Matter Requirement prior to Daily Whole Class Instruction All candidates must satisfy the subject matter requirement prior to recommendation for the Preliminary Credential.	2020-21 School Year	Authority: Commission action, April 2020, Agenda item 4A Conditions: Unable to take CSET due to COVID
PS-VTW	Program Sponsor Variable Term Waiver (PS-VTW) allows candidates who were on track to complete an educator preparation program to have an additional year to complete the credential requirements.	March 19, 2020-January 31, 2021*	Authority: Commission Action, April 2020 and October 2020 Conditions: All requirements but one met and impacted by COVID

	Summary of Flexibility	Eligible for Use	Authority and Conditions
PPS -2nd Placement	Waives the Requirement for 2 Placements for Pupil Personnel Credentials. The Title 5 regulations require candidates to complete placements in at least two grade level bands for a minimum of 100 hours in each placement. This requirement is waived. Candidates are still subject to the minimum number of total required clinical practice hours.	March 19, 2020-June 30, 2021	Authority: AB 77 and SB 98 Conditions: Impacted by COVID
CBEST	Defer CBEST for one year if the candidate who has not previously failed the assessment (used most often by out of state candidates).	March 19, 2020-January 31, 2021	Authority: Commission Action, April 2020 and October 2020 Conditions: Not previously failed CBEST
Length of Validity of Scores	Examination Scores are Valid for eleven (11) years rather than the ten years in Regulations due to the COVID pandemic.	March 19, 2020-June 30, 2021	Authority: AB 77 and SB 98 Conditions: Impacted by COVID
Extension of Credentials	COVID has been defined as a Good Cause for a one-year extension to a credential or permit. (PIPS and STSPs do not qualify for this extension).	Through the 2020-21 School Year	Authority: Commission, April 2020 Agenda Item 3A Conditions: Impacted by COVID
PIP/STSP	Individuals who have served on a PIP or STSP can downgrade to an employer requested Variable Term Waiver (VTW).	Through the 2020-21 School Year	Authority: Commission Action, April 2020 Condition: Impacted by COVID
VTW	Individuals serving on a VTW may, through an employer, request an additional issuance of the waiver even if the criteria for renewing the waiver has not been met.	Through the 2020-21 School Year	Authority: Commission Action, April 2020 Condition: Impacted by COVID

*The February 2021 agenda item proposes extending the PS-VTW to August 31, 2021