

Discussion of SB 488 Literacy Instruction Certification Process Requirements

March 2024

Overview

This item provides information to the COA regarding the Literacy Certification process that is required of all Preliminary Multiple Subject, Education Specialist, and PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs prior to July 1, 2025 in accordance with the provisions of [Senate Bill 488](#) (Chapter 678, Statutes of 2021). At the March 2024 COA meeting, staff will present an overview of the literacy certification process, answer questions from the COA about the process, and discuss its role in ensuring that programs are aligned to the new literacy standards and TPEs.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item.

Background

On February 2, 2024, the Commission issued [PSA 24-01](#) with information on the literacy instruction certification process. It will be important that the COA is familiar with what is required in the PSA. The PSA included information on the legislation requiring this process, provided answers to many of the common questions around this topic, and provided the instructions and templates to be used by programs in demonstrating their alignment with the requirements of the statute. The PSA is attached to this item thus the information contained therein is not repeated here.

In December 2023, the Commission staff requested, and the Commission approved (see [Agenda Item 2C](#)), a one year deferral of most routine accreditation activities in order for programs to be able to concentrate on the important work of aligning their literacy instruction coursework and clinical practice experiences for candidates with SB 488 and the new literacy standards and TPEs. There are some exceptions to this deferral such as provisional site visits, revisits, and some routine visits which have requested to move forward in the 2024-25 year. This deferral was also necessary to ensure that the Commission staff and reviewers would have adequate time to review the documentation from approximately 250 programs and the numerous pathways within those programs. The December 2023 agenda item provides more information about the workload involved in the certification review process and the justification for the deferral.

In addition to issuing PSA 24-01, the Commission staff is currently working on the many other logistics necessary to complete this certification process over the next year. Feedback forms are being developed, reviewers will begin to be recruited, selected, and calibrated. Timelines for completion and staff assignments are also aspects of this work that are in progress.

Next Steps

The Commission will begin the process of reviewing documentation submitted for the certification process on April 26, 2024. This process will continue throughout the next academic

year (2024-25) in an effort to certify every Multiple Subject, Education Specialist, and PK-3 ECE program.