



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

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**DATE:**

September 29, 2020

**NUMBER:**

20-16

**SUBJECT: Senate Bill 820 Signed by Governor Newsom Extends COVID Flexibilities for Academic Year 2020-21**

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**Summary:**

On September 18, 2020, Governor Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 820 (Committee of Budget and Fiscal Review), as part of the Budget Trailer Bill language. With this action the Governor has extended – by one year – the temporary flexibilities previously included in Executive Order N-66-20. As part of a Budget Trailer Bill, this extension goes into effect immediately, ensuring no gap in coverage for qualifying candidates. The flexibilities in the Executive Order (EO) applied only to candidates in academic year 2019-2020 who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as specified. Senate Bill (SB) 820 extends those same flexibilities to candidates in academic year 2020-2021 who have been affected by conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Key Provisions:**

By signing SB 820, Governor Newsom extended the effective period for the flexibilities that were included in EO N-66-20 through academic year 2020-21. No further changes were made to the flexibilities themselves. The following deferrals of one or more program requirements are available for candidates impacted by the health and safety restrictions related to COVID-19:

- (1) the teaching performance assessment shall be deferred from the preliminary program to the clear credential for preliminary multiple and single subject credential candidates who meet the specified criteria;
- (2) the administrator performance assessment shall be deferred from the preliminary program to the clear credential for administrative services credential candidates who meet the specified criteria;

- (3) the requirement to pass the reading instruction competence assessment (RICA) shall be deferred from the preliminary program to the clear credential for preliminary multiple subject credential candidates and preliminary education specialist credential candidates.
- (4) the basic skills requirement shall be deferred for candidates from an admissions requirement to a preliminary credential requirement; and,
- (5) the requirement for intern candidates to demonstrate subject matter proficiency prior to admission to a preliminary credential program shall be deferred to a preliminary credential requirement.

SB 820 extends the above provisions that were previously included in the Executive Order through the academic year 2020-2021. An application based on Flexibilities 1-3 must have an issuance date of August 31, 2021 or earlier.

Preliminary teacher preparation programs are still required to provide full support and assistance to their candidates to complete all credential requirements regardless of whether or not candidates take advantage of the flexibilities authorized under SB 820. Please refer to PSA 20-17 for more information.

### **Important Dates:**

The flexibilities identified in EO N-66-20 have been extended to August 31, 2021.

### **Background:**

On May 29, 2020, the Office of the Governor took a number of actions to assist credential candidates impacted by the health and safety restrictions related to COVID-19. On September 18, he signed SB 820 (Committee of Budget and Fiscal Review) which extended these actions for an additional year. These extensions, which are effective through August 31, 2021 in some cases, or academic year 2020-21 in others, are separate from the actions adopted by the Commission at its April 2020 meeting. Guidance on the Executive Order/SB 820 actions can be found on the Commission's COVID-19 information page.

### **Sources:**

[Senate Bill 820 \(Committee of Budget and Fiscal Review\), Section 67](#)

### **References:**

[Commission COVID-19 information page](#)

[PSA 20-17: Preliminary Teacher Preparation Program Support for Candidates who are Accepted Prior to Meeting the Basic Skills and/or the Subject Matter Competency Requirement](#)

### **Contact Information:**

Contact Information for the Professional Services Division is available at the [Professional Services Contact webpage](#).