



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

DATE:

September 29, 2020

NUMBER:

20-17

SUBJECT: Preliminary Teacher Preparation Program Support for Candidates who are Accepted Prior to Meeting the Basic Skills and/or the Subject Matter Competency Requirement

Summary:

On May 29, 2020, Governor Newsom released Executive Order N-66-20 (EO N-66-20) in response to COVID-19. EO N-66-20 allows Preliminary Teacher Preparation Program applicants to enroll in a preparation program before meeting the Basic Skills requirement. It also allows intern applicants to enroll in the program prior to meeting the Subject Matter Requirement. SB 820 extends these same provisions through August 31, 2021 (PSA 20-16). As part of the flexibilities adopted by the Commission at its April 2020 meeting, candidates in student teaching programs may begin student teaching before meeting the Subject Matter requirement. These candidates are still required to meet both requirements prior to being recommended for the Preliminary Teaching Credential.

The Commission's Preconditions and adopted Standards require educator preparation programs to support and assist candidates in meeting all credential requirements once a candidate has been admitted to the program. With the option to postpone meeting the Basic Skills and Subject Matter requirements until a later time within preparation, Commission-approved teacher preparation programs need to consider how to support and assist candidates who still need to meet one or both of these requirements before completing their program and being recommended for the Preliminary Teaching Credential. This PSA provides guidance to teacher preparation programs on helping candidates meet these requirements.

Key Provisions:

The Commission's Preconditions and adopted Standards require educator preparation programs to support and assist candidates in meeting all credential requirements once a candidate has been admitted to the program. General Precondition 2, provided below, states

that once an institution admits a candidate into a Commission-approved educator preparation program, the program must continue to offer the program for that candidate until one of the four specified options has been met.

(2) Enrollment and Completion. Once a candidate is accepted and enrolls in an educator preparation program, the approved program sponsor must offer the approved program, meeting the adopted standards, until the candidate:

- i. completes the program;
- ii. withdraws from the program;
- iii. is dropped from the program based on established criteria; or
- iv. is admitted to another approved program to complete the requirements, with minimal disruption, for the authorization

Further, Common Standard 2 requires that candidates be supported in programs to ensure their success. The standard specifies that “The education unit... provides the support, advice, and assistance to promote their successful entry and retention in the profession.” The standard also requires that “A clearly defined process is in place to identify and support candidates who need additional assistance to meet competencies.”

Given that EO N-66-20 and SB 820 allow candidates to enter preparation programs without meeting what previously may have been entry criteria, preliminary teacher preparation programs must identify the types of supports that will be provided to candidates accepted into their program to ensure that they will meet the Basic Skills Requirement (BSR) and/or the Subject Matter Requirement..

Programs may also want to examine their established criteria for dropping a candidate from the program to ensure that candidates are provided with adequate opportunities to meet the requirements for the preliminary teaching credential in an established time period. Addressing how the program will support candidates who have not met either, or both, the BSR and Subject Matter Requirement and providing this information to candidates is essential so that candidates understand what will be done to assist them to meet the required criteria and provide them with a clearly defined timeline and process for achieving the requirements. Providing clear information to candidates meets the intent of General Precondition 2 and Common Standard 2 for Preliminary Preparation programs. Program leaders will have an opportunity to discuss these candidate supports during the Office Hours noted in the weekly PSD News email.

Programs will also need to develop and maintain a document that describes these modifications, as outlined in [Program Sponsor Alert 20-06](#).

Important Dates:

This PSA applies to preparation programs admitting candidates during the 2020-21 academic year.

Background:

California Education Code requires that candidates satisfy the basic skills requirement or take the CBEST before being admitted to a preliminary teacher preparation program and that intern candidates meet both the basic skills requirement and the subject matter requirement prior to being recommended for the intern credential. The Commission's Preconditions require that candidates satisfy the subject matter requirement before beginning student teaching, including whole class instruction. Some Commission-approved teacher preparation programs require both basic skills and subject matter requirements to be satisfied before program entry. Pursuant to EO-N-66-20, preliminary teacher preparation program applicants are eligible to enter a program prior to satisfying basic skills or taking the CBEST and intern applicants are eligible to enroll in the program prior to satisfying the Subject Matter Requirement. One of the flexibilities adopted by the Commission in April allows candidates to begin student teaching prior to satisfying the Subject Matter Requirement. As previously noted, candidates are still required to complete the Basic Skills Requirement and the Subject Matter Competency Requirement prior to being recommended for a preliminary credential.

Sources:

[General Preconditions](#)

[Common Standards](#)

References:

Commission's [COVID-19 Webpage Resources](#)

[Executive Order N-66-20](#)

[PSA 20-16](#): Senate Bill 820 Signed by Governor Newsom Extends COVID Flexibilities for Academic Year 2020-21

Contact Information:

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