



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

DATE:

December 17, 2020

NUMBER:

PSA 20-22

SUBJECT: Revised Initial Program Preconditions for Institutions seeking Initial Program Accreditation – Adopted by the Commission December 2020

Summary:

When a program sponsor proposes a new educator preparation program, the program sponsor is required to submit a response to two Initial Program Preconditions. These two preconditions have remained relatively unchanged since March 1995. Throughout the 2020 year, the Commission has discussed revising these preconditions. Staff proposed language, sought feedback from the field, and at the December 2020 Commission meeting the Commission adopted the revised language in the Initial Program Preconditions as included in [Appendix A](#).

Key Provisions:

Effective the date of this PSA, responses to the prior Initial Program Preconditions will no longer be accepted. Institutions that fall into one of the two following categories must respond to the revised Initial Program Preconditions as provided in [Appendix A](#):

1. Commission-approved institutions submitting an educator preparation program proposal through [Initial Program Review](#) or
2. Institutions in Stage III of the [Initial Institutional Approval process](#)

Acceptable evidence that must be submitted when responding to the Initial Program Preconditions can be found in the Initial Program Preconditions Evidence Guidance document located on the Preconditions webpage as linked in the References section below.

Background:

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, under Education Code section 44225, has the authority to establish professional standards for educator preparation programs. In addition, Education Codes 44371 and 44372 requires the Commission to adopt and implement an Accreditation Framework which sets forth the policies of the Commission regarding

accreditation of educator preparation in California. The Accreditation Framework defines preconditions as requirements based in Education Code, the California Code of Regulations, or Commission policy that must be met for an institution to be eligible to offer a Commission-approved educator preparation program.

Sources:

[Education Code 44225](#)

[Education Code 44371](#)

[Education Code 44372](#)

References:

December 2020 Commission Meeting [Agenda Item 2C](#): Proposed Adoption of Revised Language for the Initial Program Preconditions

[Preconditions Webpage](#)

Contact Information:

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

Appendix A: Initial Program Preconditions

- (1) Demonstration of Need.** To be granted initial program accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation, the program sponsor must demonstrate the need for the type of program in the service area in which it will operate or a need for educators prepared through the specific program delivery model. Proposals must include data on the number of individuals currently serving on less than full credentials, where available, in the service area of the proposed program, projected need based on a needs analysis, and affirmations from employers with their anticipated hiring need for individuals with the planned credential.
- (2) Collaboration in Program Design and Implementation.** To be granted initial program accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation, the program sponsor must demonstrate evidence of collaboration between institutions of higher education, employers of credentialed educators, and TK-12 practitioners in the design of the program. This evidence must include verification that the partners will share authority and responsibility for the implementation and continuous improvement of the proposed educator preparation program as negotiated in the partnership agreement.