



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

DATE:
July 15, 2021

NUMBER:
21-08

SUBJECT: 2021-2022 STATE BUDGET ACT EXTENDS TESTING FLEXIBILITIES FOR CANDIDATES IMPACTED BY CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Summary:

On July 9, 2021, Governor Newsom signed [Assembly Bill 130 \(Chap. 44, Stats. 2021\)](#). The bill addresses a myriad of topics related to education, including the provisions listed below that extend the previously adopted windows of time when candidates for a teaching credential or administrative credential can defer certain assessments due to limited access to school sites or testing centers related to COVID-19. Among other things, the law:

- Suspends the requirement to complete the **Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA)** prior to earning a preliminary credential if the candidate is unable to complete it **during the 2021-22 school year**. Candidates must complete the requirement prior to earning a clear credential. The suspension ends August 31, 2022. After this date, credential candidates will need to complete the assessment prior to issuance of the preliminary credential.
- Suspends the requirement to complete the **California Administrator Performance Assessment (CalAPA)** prior to earning a preliminary credential if the candidate is unable to complete it **during the 2021-22 school year**. Candidates must complete the requirement prior to earning a clear credential. The suspension ends August 31, 2022. After this date, credential candidates will need to complete the assessment prior to issuance of the preliminary credential.

Candidates must have met all the following conditions in order to defer the TPA (for teaching candidates) or the APA (for administrative services candidates) from prior to the preliminary credential to prior to the clear credential:

1. The candidate was placed or employed in a local education agency impacted by school site closures related to COVID-19.
2. The candidate was in the process of completing the TPA/APA;
3. The candidate was unable to complete the performance assessment due solely to school closures; and
4. The candidate successfully completed all other preliminary credential requirements.

In addition, the budget trailer bill also:

- Suspends the requirement to complete the **Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA)** prior to earning a preliminary credential if the candidate is unable to complete it **between March 19, 2020 and December 31, 2021**, due to testing center closures related to COVID-19. Candidates must complete the requirement prior to earning a clear credential. The bill authorizes the Commission to take action to extend this deadline to June 30, 2022, as necessary.
- Suspends the requirement to complete the **California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)** prior to enrollment in a teacher preparation program if the candidate is unable to complete it **between March 19, 2020 and December 31, 2021**, due to testing center closures related to COVID-19. Candidates must complete the requirement prior to earning a preliminary credential. The bill authorizes the Commission to take further action to extend this deadline to June 30, 2022, as necessary.
- Suspends the requirement to complete the **California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) to teach as an Intern** if the candidate is unable to complete it **between March 19, 2020 and December 31, 2021**, due to testing center closures related to COVID-19. Candidates must complete the requirement prior to earning a preliminary credential. The bill authorizes the Commission to take further action to extend this deadline to June 30, 2022, as necessary.

In addition, the Commission recently extended certain COVID-19 related flexibilities through the 2021-2022 academic year. They are summarized below:

- On April 16, 2021, the Commission approved an extension of the waiver of preconditions related to demonstration of subject matter competence prior to student teaching **through the 2021-22 school year**. ([PSA 21-02](#))
- On June 18, 2021, the Commission approved an extension of flexibilities related to Multiple Subject and Single Subjects program standards **through the 2021-22 school year**, primarily focused on clinical practice flexibilities. ([PSA 21-05](#))
- On August 31, 2021, the Commission's approval that allows program sponsors identified in previous COVID flexibility agenda items to request a Program Sponsor Variable Term Waiver (PS-VTW) for any candidate impacted by COVID-19 will end.

It is important to note that the flexibilities outlined in this PSA should be used only when conditions warrant them. As TK-12 public schools, colleges, and universities reopen for in person instruction, access to examination requirements is expanded, and new pathways to demonstrate basic skills and subject matter competence are implemented, it is anticipated that most candidates will be able to complete program and state requirements as originally designed within their preliminary programs. This includes completing performance assessments during the preliminary program. The flexibilities outlined above have been approved by the Legislature, Governor, and the Commission for use in limited situations where candidates have been impacted by the continuing pandemic and programs should employ them judiciously on a case by case basis.

Key Provisions:

[Assembly Bill 130 \(2021\)](#)

[Commission Agenda Item 4H \(April 2021\)](#)

[Commission Agenda Item 4E \(June 2021\)](#)

Contact Information:

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