



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

DATE:

October 13, 2021

NUMBER:

PSA 21-11

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 130 SUBJECT MATTER REQUIREMENT

Summary:

This Program Sponsor Alert (PSA) provides an update to [PSA 21-10](#) on the implementation of [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 130 \(Chap. 44, Stats. of 2021\)](#) as it relates to the new options available to candidates to demonstrate subject matter competence.

Important Dates:

AB 130 (Chap. 44, Stats. of 2021) became effective on July 9, 2021.

Background:

Prior to AB 130, two options existed for candidates to demonstrate subject matter competence: 1) completion of a Commission-approved subject matter preparation program (SMPP), or 2) passage of the relevant subject matter proficiency examination (California Subject Matter Examinations for Teachers, CSET). AB 130 expanded options for candidates to demonstrate subject matter competence.

In June 2021, the Commission authorized staff to propose emergency regulations to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) in anticipation of the passage of AB 130, in order to clarify and codify certain aspects of implementation. Emergency regulations were subsequently submitted to the OAL in September for review and approval. On October 1st, the Commission was notified by OAL that the emergency regulations could not be approved as submitted. At this time, the following are the three new options for candidates to demonstrate subject matter competence, pursuant to AB 130:

1. **Option to Demonstrate Subject Matter Through Specified Academic Degrees** – As indicated in [PSA 21-10](#) the Commission will accept recommendations from all Commission-approved educator preparation programs that verify that the candidate has demonstrated subject matter competence through completion of an academic degree

that is specifically indicated in AB 130. For a list of currently acceptable academic degrees, please refer to [PSA 21-10](#).

Staff will prepare a new regulatory package to be considered by the Commission in December 2021 that will address additional degree majors that could be accepted under the AB 130 provisions. The academic degree majors that are ultimately included in the new proposed regulations will be decided upon by Commissioners with input from stakeholders. Unless and until regulations become final, pursuant to AB 130, only those degree majors identified in [PSA 21-10](#) will be accepted as demonstration of subject matter competence under the academic degree option.

2. **Option to Demonstrate Subject Matter through Coursework Evaluation** – The Commission will accept recommendations from all Commission-approved educator preparation programs that verify that the candidate has demonstrated subject matter through coursework completed at one or more regionally accredited institutions of higher education. The coursework must be aligned with each of the domains of the Subject Matter Requirements (SMRs). [PSA 21-10](#) had indicated that initially only Commission-approved subject matter preparation programs (SMPPs) would be able to implement this option. However, pursuant to AB 130, all candidates are eligible to use this option, whether or not they are enrolled in an institution that offers an SMPP program. The Subject Matter Requirements and corresponding domains are available at: [Subject Matter Requirements and Related Domains](#).
3. **Option to Demonstrate Subject Matter through a Combination of Coursework and Subject Matter Examination** – The Commission will accept recommendations from all Commission-approved educator preparation programs that verify that the candidate has demonstrated subject matter competence through a combination of any of the following: (1) partial completion of a Commission-approved subject matter program, (2) successful completion of coursework aligned to the domains of the SMRs, or (3) passing the appropriate subject matter subtests. The totality of the combination must address all the SMR domains appropriate for the credential area being sought. [PSA 21-10](#) had indicated that initially only Commission-approved SMPPs would be able to implement this option. However, pursuant to AB 130, all candidates are eligible to use this option, whether or not they are enrolled in an institution that offers an SMPP program.

The [SMRs and Corresponding CSET Examination Subtests](#) document identifies the CSET subtests for all subject matter examinations and the corresponding subject matter domains. This document is provided to support Commission-approved educator preparation programs in determining the combination of options available to candidates.

Recommending Program Completers

The Commission is currently working on adjustments to the CTC Online recommendation system that will include additional subject matter preparation pathway codes for these new options. The current codes indicating whether a candidate has satisfied subject matter competence via examination or completion of a SMPP are still available and will continue to be available. Staff anticipates that additional codes will be available to the field this fall. When the CTC Online system is ready to receive these recommendations, the field will be alerted through regular communication vehicles such as the PSD Enews and a Credential Information Alert (CIA).

Technical Assistance Webinar

The Commission will host a webinar on **Monday, October 18, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** for Commission-approved program personnel to discuss the coursework evaluation option, the Commission's plan for developing the new regulatory package related to the academic degree major provision, and the online recommendation process. In addition, the webinar will discuss the kinds of documentation the institution must maintain for accreditation purposes. To access the webinar, please use this [Zoom link](#). The webinar will be recorded and posted on the Commission's website shortly thereafter. Prospective and current candidates should contact their teacher preparation program for more information about these new provisions.

Sources:

[Education Code Section 44259](#)

[Education Code Section 44257 \(a\)](#)

[Education Code Section 44282](#)

[Education Code Section 44310](#)

[California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 80005](#)

References:

[AB 130 \(Chap. 44, Stats. of 2021\)](#)

[Demonstration of Subject Matter Competence Webpage](#)

[PSA 21-10](#)

Contact Information:

For program questions about this PSA please contact: PSDInfo@ctc.ca.gov.

For information about the credential recommendation process, please contact credentials@ctc.ca.gov.