



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

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**DATE:**  
**February 11, 2022**

**NUMBER: 22-02**

**SUBJECT: TEACHING PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT FOR EDUCATION  
SPECIALIST CREDENTIAL CANDIDATES**

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**Summary:**

As Education Specialist programs transition to the new credential requirements, this Program Sponsor Alert provides an important reminder to program sponsors about the requirement that all candidates, newly enrolled after July 1, 2022, pass a Commission- approved performance assessment prior to a recommendation for a preliminary credential.

**Key Provisions:**

Pursuant to the Commission-adopted [Education Specialist program standards and proposed regulations](#), all Education Specialist credential candidates must take and pass a teaching performance assessment (TPA) in their credential area prior to the recommendation of the preliminary credential. At its [April 2021 meeting](#), the Commission recognized that candidates newly enrolled on or after July 1, 2022, in Mild to Moderate (MMSN) and Extensive Support Needs (ESN) credential programs will be required to complete a Commission- approved Education Specialist teaching performance assessment. At this same meeting, the Commission granted an additional year of development for the lower incidence credential areas of Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH), and Visual Impairments (VI). All candidates newly enrolled in these programs on or after July 1, 2023, will be required to complete a Commission approved performance assessment prior to being recommended for the preliminary credential.

At the [February 2022](#) Commission meeting, the Commission adopted the requirement that teachers earning more than one teaching credential, simultaneously or over time, need only pass a single teaching performance assessment (TPA) for the purpose of earning their teaching credentials. Regulations will be drafted to codify this Commission policy.

Additionally, all new MMSN and ESN credential candidates will need to take and pass a Commission- approved Education Specialist TPA beginning July 1, 2022 (ECSE, DHH, and VI candidates will be required beginning July 1, 2023). This requirement means that programs should devise a plan to address the

[shaded sections A-D](#) so that the program is prepared to implement the TPA with these new candidates beginning the new MMSN and ESN education specialist programs and provide candidates with the necessary supports.

**Important Dates:**

The required TPA for Education Specialist credentials and Commission approved passing scores will apply to all Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN) and Extensive Support Needs (ESN) education specialist credential candidates who begin their preparation programs on or after July 1, 2022.

ECSE, DHH, and VI education specialist credential candidates are encouraged to participate in a field test of the teaching performance assessment beginning in the 2022-23 academic year. A performance assessment will be required for all candidates enrolled in these three credential programs on or after July 1, 2023, for academic year 2023-24.

**Background:**

At its [February 2018 meeting](#), the Commission adopted a revised credential structure for the Education Specialist teaching credentials. The new credential structure includes five preliminary teaching credentials: Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN), Extensive Support Needs (ESN), Visual Impairments (VI), Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH), and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE). After this work, the Commission determined that every teacher candidate should take and pass a TPA prior to earning the preliminary teaching credential. During its [June 2018](#) meeting, the Commission reviewed proposed program standards and teaching performance expectations as well as proposed subject matter requirements for the credential. At the June 2018 Commission meeting, the Commission acted to do the following:

1. Affirm the current subject matter requirements for all Education Specialist credentials. (i.e., a candidate completes the subject matter requirement as a candidate for a Preliminary Multiple Subject credential or a Preliminary Single Subject credential).
2. Adopt Teaching Performance Expectations (TPEs) for Early Childhood Special Education, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Visual Impairments teaching credentials.
3. Affirm that the Early Childhood Special Education teaching credential will authorize teaching and services for birth through kindergarten once the regulatory process has been completed.

At the [August 2018](#) Commission meeting, the Commission adopted program standards and TPEs for the Education Specialist Mild to Moderate and Extensive Support Needs credentials, and in [April 2019](#) adopted authorization statements for these credentials. At the [April 2021](#) Commission meeting, Commissioners granted an additional year of development for the credential areas of ECSE, DHH, and VI with the teaching performance assessment becoming operational for these education specialist credential areas on or after July 1, 2023.

**References:**

[Preliminary Education Specialist Teaching Credential Preconditions, Program Standards, and Teaching Performance Expectations](#)

[Agenda 4B from April 2021 Commission Meeting](#)

[Agenda 3B from February 2022 Commission Meeting](#)

**Contact Information:**

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