



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

DATE:
May 17, 2022

NUMBER:
22-05

SUBJECT: REMINDER OF SUNSET DATE FOR DEFERRAL OF A PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OR READING INSTRUCTION COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT (RICA) EXAMINATION FOR PRELIMINARY CREDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Summary:

This Program Sponsor Alert (PSA) provides a reminder that certain credential program flexibilities that were put in place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic will sunset in the coming months. The option for programs to defer passage of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) for preliminary teaching credential candidates will sunset on June 30, 2022; and the option for programs to defer passage of a performance assessment for preliminary teaching or administrative services credential candidates will sunset on August 31, 2022. Beginning on July 1, 2022 preliminary preparation programs may no longer recommend candidates for a preliminary teaching credential without passage of the RICA examination; and, beginning on September 1, 2022 preliminary preparation programs may no longer recommend candidates for a preliminary teaching or administrative services credential without passage of all cycles of a Commission-approved performance assessment

Key Provisions:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a series of temporary flexibilities have been provided for educator preparation programs and their candidates since March 2020 to ensure that prospective educators can continue to progress in their preparation programs and achieve their licensure goals and to avoid exacerbating the state's teacher shortage. Some of these flexibilities represent actions taken by and under the purview of the Commission, while others were the result of legislative and/or gubernatorial action. Assembly Bill 130 (Chap. 44, Stats. 2021) provided educator preparation programs the flexibility to recommend candidates for a preliminary teaching or administrative services credential without passing all cycles of a Commission-approved teaching performance assessment (TPA) or administrator performance assessment (APA) and/or without passing the RICA but still requiring candidates to complete

these requirements prior to earning a clear credential. The flexibility for the performance assessments – which expires on August 31, 2022, pursuant to the language of the legislation – requires programs to verify that **all of the following circumstances** exist before recommending a candidate for a preliminary credential with the TPA or APA renewal code:

1. The candidate was placed or employed at 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 at the time of the school closure;
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.

The flexibility for the RICA was provided primarily due to testing center closures and/or capacity issues at testing centers. The flexibility expired on December 31, 2021 but AB 130 also provided the Commission with the authority to extend the flexibility should it determine that testing center closures and/or testing center capacity were still issues preventing candidates from completing required assessments. The Commission took action at its December 2021 meeting to extend the flexibilities related to passage of the RICA through June 30, 2022. As COVID-19 restrictions have lifted, testing centers have had more appointments available for those individuals needing to take and pass the RICA. Additionally, in 2021 the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson implemented online proctoring to provide increased access to candidates who otherwise were not able to access the RICA due to COVID-19 restrictions. Online proctoring is available one week each month for 24 hours a day and provides a large capacity to meet the needs of examinees. The Commission does not anticipate extending this flexibility beyond the June 30, 2022 sunset date.

In summary, beginning on July 1, 2022 preliminary preparation programs may no longer recommend candidates for a preliminary teaching credential without passage of the RICA; and, beginning on September 1, 2022 preliminary preparation programs may no longer recommend candidates for a preliminary teaching or administrative services credential without passage of all cycles of a Commission-approved performance assessment. Preparation programs should ensure that all current candidates are informed about these deadlines as there will be no exceptions to these requirements.

References:

[Covid Flexibility Table \(ca.gov\)](#)

[2E: Consideration of the Need to Extend Specific Flexibilities Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[AB 130](#)

Contact Information:

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