



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

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**DATE:**  
June 24, 2022

**NUMBER:**  
PSA 22-07

**SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF SUSPENSION OF PRECONDITIONS REQUIRING DEMONSTRATION OF SUBJECT MATTER COMPETENCE PRIOR TO DAILY WHOLE CLASS INSTRUCTION**

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**Summary:**

This Program Sponsor Alert (PSA) provides an update on the extension of the suspension of preconditions requiring candidates to demonstrate Subject Matter Competence prior to daily whole class instruction.

At its [June 2022 meeting](#), the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) voted in favor of extending the suspension of the preconditions that require multiple subject, single subject, and education specialist candidates to demonstrate subject matter competence prior to daily whole class instruction through the 2022-23 academic year. This suspension is for candidates in student teaching-based programs only, and all candidates must still meet the subject matter competence requirement before being recommended for their preliminary credential.

**The suspension does not apply to interns**, as Education Code section 44325(C)(3) requires candidates enrolling in an intern pathway to have demonstrated subject matter competence prior to being recommended for the intern credential. **This suspension applies only to candidates enrolled during the 2022-23 school year who begin their program (coursework or clinical practice) on or before May 1, 2023.** It does not apply to candidates who are admitted for the 2023-24 academic year, or who begin their program after May 1, 2023.

**Background:**

Since March 2020, a series of temporary flexibilities have been afforded to educator preparation programs and their candidates to ensure that prospective educators can continue to progress in their preparation programs and achieve their licensure goals, as well as 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. An updated table with the current flexibilities is included as [Appendix A](#). Many of these flexibilities are set to expire in summer 2022 as PK-12 schools have returned to in person instruction and as testing centers have resumed more typical operations with enhanced options for candidates to take required examinations.

To meet the needs of candidates who were impacted by testing center closures caused by the pandemic and the stay-at-home orders, the Commission took action in [April 2020](#) to suspend the preconditions requiring demonstration of subject matter competence prior to daily whole class instruction. The Commission revisited this action again in [April 2021](#) as the impact of the pandemic continued. At that time, the Commission acted to extend this suspension through academic year 2021-22. The Commission then took action in [December 2021](#) to extend the flexibility around the subject matter requirement for interns through June 30, 2022, as authorized by AB 130 (Chap. 44, Stats. 2021). The Commission did not take action at that time for non-intern candidates since the previous action taken in April 2021 had pertained to the entire 2021-22 academic year.

At its [June 2022 meeting](#), the Commission voted in favor of extending the subject matter competence flexibility for two primary reasons. First, the extension allows programs more opportunity to refine their processes for verifying subject matter competence under the new degree major and coursework evaluation options. Additionally, the Commission wanted to ensure that candidates are not adversely affected by a limited availability of some subject matter competence exams based on testing center closures and capacity due to the COVID pandemic.

### **Relevant Preconditions**

Education Code section 44259 requires demonstration of subject matter competence prior to issuance of a preliminary credential. Precondition 6 (Multiple and Single Subject) and Precondition 3 (Education Specialist) require that candidates demonstrate subject matter competence prior to daily whole class instruction.

Daily whole class instruction typically begins during formal student teaching and before or concurrent with the beginning of the candidate's four weeks of solo or co-teaching that is required by program standards. However, because programs have flexibility with respect to their program design, and student teaching/clinical practice may differ in significant ways, programs determine when "daily whole class instruction" begins within their program.

It is important to note that an institution may choose to require that its candidates demonstrate subject matter competence prior to daily whole class instruction regardless of this flexibility. This would be an institution level decision. All programs should strongly encourage and prepare all candidates to complete all examination requirements as early as possible in their programs. **This action should not be seen as a waiver of the subject matter requirement or endorsement of unreasonable delays in completing credential requirements.**

**Future Considerations**

During the discussion of this flexibility presented in [Item 3J at the June 2022](#) meeting, the Commission also indicated support for ensuring that candidates demonstrate subject matter competence prior to daily whole class instruction going forward. It is anticipated that the flexibility will not be extended beyond May 1, 2023.

Programs should ensure that all advising materials for candidates and prospective candidates admitted for enrollment after May 1, 2023, clearly indicate that demonstration of subject matter competence will be required prior to daily whole class instruction. The Commission's accreditation system will seek confirmation that all programs are complying with these preconditions beginning in May 2023.

Programs should reach out to Commission staff with any questions on implementing the new options for verifying subject matter competence for candidates. Commission staff is committed to providing any needed technical assistance to institutions to help with this implementation.

**Sources:**

[Education Code Section 44259](#)

[Education Code Section 44325](#)

[Multiple Subject and Single Subject Preconditions](#)

[Education Specialist Preconditions](#)

**Contact Information:**

For program questions about this PSA please contact: [PSDInfo@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:PSDInfo@ctc.ca.gov).

For information about the credential recommendation process, please contact [credentials@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:credentials@ctc.ca.gov).

Appendix A

COVID Flexibilities  
Updated: June 22, 2022

COVID Flexibility	Summary of Flexibility	Eligible for Use	Authority and Conditions
TPA/APA	<p><b>Move performance assessment requirement (TPA/APA) to the Clear Credential</b> if impacted by COVID as noted in <a href="#">PSA 21-08</a>. The performance assessment must be passed prior to recommendation for the clear credential.</p>	<p>March 19, 2020- August 31, 2022</p>	<p><b>Authority:</b> EO N-66-20 and <a href="#">SB 820 (Chap. 110, Stats. 2020)</a> Extended with <a href="#">AB 130 (Chap. 44, Stats.2021)</a> <b>Conditions:</b> Enrolled in program, met all requirements other than the performance assessment, COVID prevents completion</p>
RICA	<p><b>Move RICA requirement to the Clear Credential</b> if impacted by COVID as noted in <a href="#">PSA 21-08</a>. The assessment must be passed prior to recommendation for the clear credential.</p>	<p>March 19, 2020- June 30, 2022</p>	<p><b>Authority:</b> EO N-66-20 and <a href="#">SB 820 (Chap. 110, Stats. 2020)</a> Extended with <a href="#">AB 130 (Chap. 44, Stats.2021)</a> The Commission took action to extend this deadline to June 30, 2022 <b>Conditions:</b> Unable to take RICA due to COVID</p>

COVID Flexibility	Summary of Flexibility	Eligible for Use	Authority and Conditions
CBEST	<p><b>Suspends requirement of CBEST for Program Entry</b>, if the candidate is unable to complete the exam due to testing center closures related to COVID-19, and the requirements for programs to use the CBEST data to support candidates. Basic Skills must be met prior to recommendation for the credential.</p>	<p>March 19, 2020- June 30, 2022</p>	<p><b>Authority:</b> EO N-66-20 and <a href="#">SB 820 (Chap. 110, Stats. 2020)</a> Extended with <a href="#">AB 130 (Chap. 44, Stats.2021)</a> The Commission took action to extend this deadline to June 30, 2022 <b>Conditions:</b> For prospective candidates unable to take the exam due to testing center closures related to COVID-19</p>
Subject Matter - Interns	<p><b>Suspends Subject Matter Requirement for Interns</b> to enter the Intern program if the candidate is unable to complete it due to testing center closures related to COVID-19. The subject matter requirement must be met prior to recommendation for the preliminary credential.</p>	<p>March 19, 2020- June 30, 2022</p>	<p><b>Authority:</b> EO N-66-20 and <a href="#">SB 820 (Chap. 110, Stats. 2020)</a> Extended with <a href="#">AB 130 (Chap. 44, Stats.2021)</a> The Commission took action to extend this deadline to June 30, 2022 <b>Conditions:</b> Unable to take CSET due to testing center closures related to COVID</p>
Subject Matter - Student Teaching	<p><b>Waive the Preconditions that Require Subject Matter Requirement prior to Daily Whole Class Instruction</b> for Preliminary Multiple/Single Subject and Preliminary Education Specialist candidates. All candidates must satisfy the subject matter requirement prior to recommendation for the preliminary credential.</p>	<p>For school year 2021-22 and 2022-23. <b>The suspension ends May 1, 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Authority:</b> Commission action, April 2020, Agenda item 4A <b>Extended with Commission action, June 2022, Agenda item 3J</b> <b>Conditions:</b> Unable to take CSET due to COVID.</p>

COVID Flexibility	Summary of Flexibility	Eligible for Use	Authority and Conditions
PS-VTW	<p><b>Program Sponsor Variable Term Waiver (PS-VTW)</b> allows candidates who were on track to complete an educator preparation program to have an additional year to complete the credential requirements.</p>	March 19, 2020- August 31, 2021	<p><b>Authority:</b> Commission Action, April 2020 and October 2020  <b>Conditions:</b> Almost all requirements met, need more time, and impacted by COVID</p>
PPS -2 <sup>nd</sup> Placement	<p><b>Waives the Requirement for 2 Placements for Pupil Personnel Credentials.</b> Title 5 regulations require candidates to complete placements in at least two grade level bands for a minimum of 100 hours in each placement. This requirement is waived. Candidates are still subject to the minimum number of total required clinical practice hours.  This flexibility has expired.</p>	March 19, 2020- June 30, 2021	<p><b>Authority:</b> SB 98 (Chap. 24, Stats. 2020)  <b>Conditions:</b> Impacted by COVID</p>
CBEST	<p><b>Defer CBEST for one year</b> if the candidate who has not previously failed the assessment (used most often by out of state candidates).  This flexibility has expired.</p>	March 19, 2020- August 31, 2021	<p><b>Authority:</b> Commission Action, April 2020 and October 2020  <b>Conditions:</b> Not previously failed CBEST as noted in the <a href="#">CBEST Deferral and BSR Guidance Document</a></p>
Length of Validity of Scores	<p><b>Examination Scores are Valid for eleven (11) years</b> rather than the ten years in Regulations due to the COVID pandemic.  This flexibility has expired.</p>	March 19, 2020- June 30, 2021	<p><b>Authority:</b> SB 98 (Chap. 24, Stats. 2020)  <b>Conditions:</b> Impacted by COVID</p>
Extension of Credentials	<p><b>COVID has been defined as a Good Cause</b> for a one-year extension to a credential or permit for individuals. <b>Requires evidence of school closure, medical reasons, mandated quarantine, or other disruption directly related to COVID.</b> (PIPs and STSPs do not qualify for this extension)</p>	Available for all credential holders except for holders of a PIP or STSP.	<p><b>Authority:</b> Commission Action, April 2020 Agenda Item 3A  <b>Conditions:</b> Impacted by COVID</p>

<b>COVID Flexibility</b>	<b>Summary of Flexibility</b>	<b>Eligible for Use</b>	<b>Authority and Conditions</b>
<b>PIP/STSP</b>	<b>Individuals who have served on a PIP or STSP</b> can downgrade to an employer requested Variable Term Waiver (VTW).	Available for PIP/STSP Holders	<b>Authority:</b> Commission Action, April 2020 <b>Condition:</b> Impacted by COVID
<b>VTW</b>	<b>Individuals serving on a VTW</b> may, through an employer, request an additional issuance of the waiver even if the criteria for renewing the waiver have not been met. <b>Requires evidence of school closure, medical reasons, mandated quarantine, or other disruption directly related to COVID.</b>	Available for all VTW holders	<b>Authority:</b> Commission Action, April 2020 <b>Condition:</b> Impacted by COVID