



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

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**DATE:**  
October 3, 2022

**NUMBER:**  
PSA 22-11

**SUBJECT: REVISED PRECONDITIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT MATTER COMPETENCE  
REQUIREMENT**

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**Summary:**

At its [August 2022 meeting](#), the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) approved revised preconditions for the Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, Education Specialist programs and associated Intern programs related to the subject matter competence requirement for candidates. This Program Sponsor Alert provides information about these revised preconditions.

**Background:**

In July 2021, [Assembly Bill 130](#) (Chap. 44, Stats. 2021) created additional options in California Education Code for candidates to demonstrate subject matter competence through (a) specified degree majors in the subject area of the credential being sought, (b) coursework that covers the domains of the applicable Subject Matter Requirements for the credential sought, or (c) a combination of coursework and examination subtests required for the subject area of the credential sought by the candidate. These new provisions were added to the existing options of successful completion of a Commission-approved subject matter program or passage of the appropriate subject matter exam, currently the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET).

The adopted changes align the preconditions to the new law and ensure that outdated language is removed. Preconditions reflect either state law, regulations, or Commission policy. Educator preparation programs must be in compliance with preconditions at all times.

**Precondition Changes**

A total of six preconditions were updated to reflect the new options in AB 130 for meeting the subject matter competence requirement. These preconditions include Multiple Subject and

Single Subject preconditions 5 and 6, Education Specialist preconditions 2 and 3, and Intern preconditions 2 and 3. Staff also made various cleanup edits throughout the preconditions. More information about all edits and a line-by-line comparison with previous versions of the preconditions is available in [Agenda Item 2B from the August 2022 Commission meeting](#). The updated versions of all preconditions are available on the [Commission's preconditions webpage](#). Updated preconditions evidence guidance documents for all relevant programs are also being developed and will be available shortly.

### **Current Suspension of Preconditions Due to Pandemic**

It is important to note that at the [June 2022 Commission meeting](#), the Commission acted to continue the suspension of the preconditions that require demonstration of subject matter competence prior to daily whole class instruction for student teachers. *This suspension is not applicable to intern candidates.* The [suspension of the relevant preconditions](#) related to demonstration of subject matter prior to daily whole class instruction for student teaching candidates remains in effect through May 1, 2023, consistent with Commission action taken in June 2022. Although this suspension remains in place, programs are strongly encouraged to ensure that their candidates demonstrate subject matter competence as early as possible, and to inform candidates that waiting to do so may impact their ability to complete their program and be recommended for a preliminary credential.

### **Impact of Proposed Regulations on Revised Preconditions**

At the June 2022 Commission meeting, Commission staff presented the [proposed regulations language](#) to be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) related to the subject matter competence provisions in AB 130. At this time, these regulations have not yet been approved by OAL and are therefore not in effect.

The proposed regulations seek to clarify and standardize implementation of the options to the Subject Matter Competence requirement in Education Code sections 44259 and 44310 that were created in AB 130. For instance, the proposed regulations seek to specify the types of academic majors that would be considered allowable for each type of credential.

In accordance with Commission direction, if and when the Title 5 regulations are approved, Commission staff will update relevant preconditions to include the language contained in the proposed regulations, including the additional academic degree majors.

### **Next Steps**

The revised preconditions are now in effect and programs should continue to refine their processes to align with all precondition requirements. Programs will be asked to submit evidence of meeting the revised preconditions during their next scheduled preconditions submissions date, beginning with institutions in the red and green cohorts in March of 2023. Institutions with site visits in fall 2022 and spring 2023 should be prepared to address this topic with their visiting teams.

**Sources:**

[Education Code Section 44259](#)

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

[August 2022 Agenda Item 2B](#)

**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)