



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

DATE:

December 2, 2022

NUMBER:

22-16

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHING TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Summary:

This PSA reviews the requirements and options for credentialed staff who are or who will be teaching in any of grades PK-3, inclusive, as well as the requirements under Education Code Section 48000 (g)(4) pertaining to teachers of Transitional Kindergarten classes.

Key Provisions:

Teachers who hold a valid Multiple Subject teaching credential are authorized to teach any of grades PK-3, inclusive. Teachers who hold a Multiple Subject teaching credential who are first assigned to teach specifically grade TK after July 1, 2015, must meet the apportionment (funding) requirement specified in [EC 48000 \(g\)\(4\)](#) if the LEA is requesting funding for that TK classroom. The requirement under [EC 48000 \(g\)\(4\)](#) is not a credentialing requirement but is rather an apportionment requirement for LEAs requesting state funding for offering TK classes. This apportionment requirement only applies to teaching TK and not to any other grade levels within the PK-3 grade span. Teachers who will hold a PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential in the future will also be fully authorized to teach any of grades PK-3, inclusive and will meet the apportionment requirement under EC 4800 (g)(4) through their preparation program coursework for this credential. There is also a new Emergency Specialist Teaching Permit in Early Childhood Education as well as other [credential options](#) for teaching TK available. Employment decisions are within the purview of the hiring LEA.

Important Dates:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=48000.&lawCode=EDCEducation Code Section 48000 \(g\)\(4\)](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=48000.&lawCode=EDCEducation Code Section 48000 (g)(4)) is currently in effect. Credentialed teachers subject to the provisions of this section of the Education Code must be in compliance on or before August 1, 2023. The PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential is presently moving through the state's regulatory process and is expected to have completed this process by early

2023. The Emergency Specialist Teaching Permit in Early Childhood Education as well as additional [credential options](#) for teaching TK are available now.

Background:

Education Code Section 48000 (g)(4) pertains to requirements for credential holders who are first assigned to teach specifically grade TK after July 1, 2015, whose employers are requesting state apportionment (funding) for the TK classes taught by these teachers. The Legislature felt that multiple subject teachers should have enhanced preparation for teaching grade TK that focuses on early childhood education/child development. [EC 48000 \(g\)\(4\)](#) specifies that this enhanced preparation consists of 24 units of early childhood education/child development, or a combination of both. The options specified within [EC 48000 \(g\)\(4\)](#) for meeting the apportionment requirement for multiple subject credentialed teachers are:

4) Ensure that credentialed teachers who are first assigned to a transitional kindergarten classroom after July 1, 2015, have, by August 1, 2023, one of the following:

(A) At least 24 units in early childhood education, or childhood development, or both.

(B) As determined and documented by the local educational agency employing the teacher, professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children meeting the criteria established by the governing board or body of the local educational agency that is comparable to the 24 units of education described in subparagraph (A).

(C) A child development teacher permit, or an early childhood education specialist credential, issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

The Commission is not changing the requirements for the Multiple Subject credential based on the provisions of [EC 48000 \(g\)\(4\)](#), since this section of the Education Code does not create a credentialing requirement, but rather creates an apportionment (funding) requirement that LEAs need to meet if they are requesting state funding for TK classes. The California Department of Education has responsibility for oversight over the implementation of Education Code Section 48000 (g)(4) and has established a [UPK website](#) where workforce-related issues are addressed.

Teachers who in the future may obtain the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction credential will also be authorized to teach the full range of grades PK-3, including TK, and will have already met the apportionment requirement under EC 48000 (g)(4) since the preparation for this credential will include 24 units of coursework/clinical practice experience in early childhood education, child development, or both.

https://www.lawserver.com/law/state/california/codes/california_education_code_48000-1Education_Code_Section_48000.1, added in June 2022, is also in effect. This section of the Education Code further defines the requirements for the 24 units pursuant to EC 48000 (g)(4).

There are additional staffing options available for Transitional Kindergarten. The full range of [credential options for teaching TK](#) is described on the Commission's website.

Sources:

[Education Code Section 48000 \(g\)\(4\)](#)

[Education Code Section 48000.1](#)

[Credential Options for Teaching TK](#)

References:

[Education Code Section 48000 \(g\)\(4\)](#)

August 2022 Commission Meeting, [Agenda Item 5A](#): Proposed Regulations for the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential

[Credential Option for TK Teaching](#) on the Commission's website

California Department of Education [UPK website](#)

California Department of Education UPK Frequently Asked Questions: [Teacher Workforce](#)

Contact Information:

For questions concerning credential requirements/assignment requirements for teaching in PK-3 please contact: credentials@ctc.ca.gov.

For questions concerning the implementation of UPK, please contact the California Department of Education at: UPK@cde.ca.gov.

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