



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

DATE:
June 30, 2023

NUMBER:
23-04

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS RE: DEMONSTRATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
COMPETENCE REQUIREMENT**

Summary:

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 130 \(Chap. 44, Stats. of 2021\)](#) was signed by the Governor and became effective on July 9, 2021. Provisions of the bill created new options for credential candidates to meet the subject matter competence requirement (SMR). Subsequently, the Commission approved and submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) proposed regulations to implement these provisions. The addition of §80096 (a)-(d) to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) pertaining to the new options for demonstrating subject matter competence was approved by the Office of Administrative Law and became effective on June 29, 2023. Further, a 15 day notice of public comment on Section 80096 (e) pertaining to the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential will be issued and this particular provision will be resubmitted at the appropriate time for consideration for approval by OAL.

This Program Sponsor Alert provides notice of approval of these regulations by OAL and information about the implementation of these options for Commission-approved preparation programs.

Background:

Candidates for a teaching credential must demonstrate competency in the subject matter area of their intended credential. The passage of AB 130 created new options for candidates to demonstrate their subject matter competence through (a) degree majors in the subject area of the credential sought, (b) coursework that covers the domains of the applicable subject matter requirements for the credential sought, and (c) a combination of coursework and examination subtests required for the credential sought by the candidate. Passage of the appropriate Commission approved subject matter examination (the California Subject Examination for

Teachers) or completion of a Commission approved subject matter preparation program are also still acceptable options to demonstrate subject matter competence under existing law.

At the [June 2022](#) meeting, the Commission approved the proposed regulations for candidates to meet the subject matter competence requirement outlined in Education Code sections 44259 and 44310 that were created in AB 130. Pursuant to the state process for promulgating regulations, the Commission held a requested public hearing on these proposed regulations at its [December 2022](#) Commission meeting. In March 2023, the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) notified Commission staff that the Commission would need to approve substantive changes to the proposed regulations. A hearing was scheduled to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the new proposed regulations before the Commission considered them. That hearing took place at the [April 2023](#) Commission meeting, where the regulations were finalized and approved by the Commission. The approved proposed regulations were sent to OAL where, all but subsection (e) relating to the PK 3-ECE Specialist Instruction Credential were approved on June 29, 2023 and became effective June 29, 2023. The OAL directed the Commission to conduct a 15 day notice regarding the changes to the proposed regulations on subject matter for the PK-3 Credential prior to further consideration of approval of that particular section of the regulations. Based on the passage of these regulations, the information that follows describes the options candidates may use to meet the mandatory subject matter competence requirement.

Key Provisions:

The approved regulations include clarification about acceptable coursework for all credentials. Specifically, in order to be considered as applicable toward a candidate's subject matter competency, acceptable coursework for any credential must meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) Has been completed with a grade of "C" or higher, "Pass", "Credit" or another designation deemed by the institution of higher education to be the equivalent to a grade of "C" or higher.
- 2) Is degree-applicable to an Associate or higher degree and credit bearing. Remedial or professional development coursework is not acceptable.
- 3) Completed at a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

Candidates can meet the subject matter competency requirement for the **Single Subject Credential** by completing a baccalaureate degree or higher in a major in one of the subject areas named in Education Code [§44257\(a\)](#) or the following.

- 1) For the single subject area World Language: English Language Development, an academic degree major in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) or Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL).
- 2) For the single subject area of Home Economics, an academic degree major in family and consumer science.
- 3) For the single subject area of Mathematics, an academic degree major in statistics.
- 4) For the single subject area of Science: Biological Science, an academic degree major in biology, biological engineering, or biochemistry.

- 5) For the single subject area of Science: Chemistry, an academic degree major in chemical engineering or biochemistry.
- 6) For the single subject area of Science: Geoscience, an academic degree major in geology or earth science.
- 7) For the single subject area of Science: Physics, an academic degree major in mechanical or structural engineering.
- 8) For the single subject area of Science: Foundational-Level Science, an academic degree major in any type of engineering or any degree major offered by a college or university science department.

Completion of a baccalaureate degree or higher in one of following academic degree majors meets the subject matter competency requirement for the **Multiple Subject Credential**:

- 1) Liberal Studies
- 2) Liberal Arts
- 3) Elementary Education

AB 130 also allows for a candidate to meet the subject matter requirement for the **Multiple Subject Credential** with a bachelor's degree or higher in a major that includes **all** of the subject areas identified in Education Code §44282(b): language studies, literature, mathematics, science, social studies, history, arts, physical education, and human development.

Coursework Evaluation for Academic Majors and Coursework Not Listed Above

In some instances, candidates may have completed a course of study resulting in a degree major that does not share the exact title of one of the listed academic degrees but may still meet the subject matter requirements through the coursework evaluation option. In these cases, programs may review the coursework to evaluate whether or not candidates have successfully completed courses that address each of the domains of the subject matter requirements adopted by the Commission in the content area of the credential. The Subject Matter Requirements and corresponding domains are available on the Commission's [Subject Matter Requirements and Related Domains](#) webpage.

With respect to the provisions related to subject matter competence for the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential, the Commission will issue a 15 day notice and will be gathering and responding appropriately to the public comment in preparation for resubmission of the proposed language to the Office of Administrative Law, in accordance with the required regulatory processes.

New Subject Matter Options Chart

The Commission has created a new chart that programs may find useful in navigating the numerous options now available for candidates to demonstrate subject matter. This chart is now posted on the following webpage: [Demonstration of Subject Matter](#)

Important Dates:

Regulations Become Effective June 29, 2023

Sources:

[Education Code Section 44259](#)

[Education Code Section 44310](#)

[PSA 21-10](#)

References:

[Final Regulatory Text Language](#)

[Agenda Item 3H \(April 2023\)](#)

Contact Information:

Contact Information for the Professional Services Division is available at the [Professional Services Contact webpage](#). You can submit questions to: Accreditation@ctc.ca.gov