



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

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**DATE:**  
August 31, 2023

**NUMBER:**  
PSA 23-06

**SUBJECT: GRADE SPAN AUTHORIZATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY AND DISTRICT INTERN CREDENTIALS**

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**Summary:**

This Program Sponsor Alert provides clarification to educator preparation programs on existing statute regarding the similarities and differences in the grade span authorizations for the [University](#) and [District](#) Intern credentials. Whereas in all cases, a University Intern credential authorizes the holder to teach individuals in the same grade levels as the corresponding preliminary and clear credentials, the District Intern Multiple and Single Subject credentials each have grade span authorizations that are more limited than those found in the corresponding preliminary and clear credentials. The Education Specialist District Intern credentials authorize holders to teach in the same grade spans as the corresponding Preliminary and Clear Education Specialist credentials.

**Key Provisions:**

Pursuant to California Education Code §44326, the grade spans in which District Intern Multiple and Single Subject credential holders are authorized to teach are more limited than the grade spans authorized in the corresponding preliminary and clear credentials. It is the responsibility of both the Commission-approved teacher preparation program and the employer to ensure that District Intern credential holders are placed in assignments that align with the grade level and instructional services provided in the credential's authorization statement.

**Grade Span Authorization for University Intern Credentials**

University Intern teaching credentials authorize the same instruction at the same grade levels as the corresponding preliminary and clear credentials. For example, a Preliminary Multiple Subject credential and the Multiple Subject University Intern credential both authorize the holder to teach all subjects in a self-contained class in preschool, TK-12, and classes for adults, and to teach in a core setting in grades 5-8. The Single Subject and Education Specialist

University Intern credentials also authorize the same services and grade levels as their respective preliminary and clear credentials.

#### Limitations in Grade Span Authorization for the District Intern Credentials

District Intern teaching credentials list specific grade-level authorizations for Multiple and Single Subject credential holders that are more restrictive than those listed in the corresponding University Intern, preliminary, and clear credentials. The Multiple Subject District Intern teaching credential authorizes the holder to teach all subjects in a self-contained class in grades kindergarten through eight, and to teach in a core setting in grades 5-8. It does not authorize teaching students in grades 9-12 or classes for adults.

The Single Subject District Intern credential authorizes the holder to teach departmentalized courses within the content area(s) listed on the document in grades six through twelve. It does not authorize teaching students in grades PK-5 or classes for adults.

The Education Specialist District Intern teaching credentials authorize the same services and grade levels as the corresponding Preliminary and Clear Education Specialist credentials.

Due to the specific limitations on the grade span authorizations imposed on District Intern credentials by state statute, District Intern programs must ensure that candidates enrolled in their intern program are properly assigned.

#### **Background:**

Pursuant to California Education Code §44325, the Commission is authorized to issue District Intern credentials to individuals employed by school districts and enrolled in District Intern teacher preparation programs.

For many decades, school districts and county offices of education have had the authority to establish District Intern teacher preparation programs to provide teacher candidates with an alternative pathway to earning a preliminary credential. Recently, the Commission has received inquiries from District Intern programs about the grade spans in which District Interns are authorized to teach. For example, a District Internship is not an option for Single Subject positions for students in grades TK-5.

In most cases, programs were not fully aware of the restrictions on the grade span authorizations for the District Intern Multiple and Single Subject credentials. The state statutes governing the District Intern programs have long stipulated grade span authorizations for the District Intern Multiple and Single Subject credentials that are more restrictive than the grade span authorizations for the corresponding preliminary and clear credentials. The Education Specialist District Intern credentials, however, have always authorized the same services and grade spans as the corresponding preliminary and clear credentials.

#### **Sources:**

[Education Code Section 44325](#)

[Education Code Section 44326](#)

**Contact Information:**

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

For information about the teacher intern credentials, please contact [intern@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:intern@ctc.ca.gov).

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

