



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

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**DATE:**

March 1, 2024

**NUMBER:**

24-05

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF TITLE 5 CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE PK-3 EARLY CHILDHOOD (ECE) SPECIALIST INSTRUCTION CREDENTIAL**

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**Summary:**

This Program Sponsor Alert provides notice of approval of the PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential regulations by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and information about the implementation of this credential for Commission-approved preparation programs.

**Important Dates:**

These regulations were approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on February 7, 2024, with the effective date of April 1, 2024.

**Background:**

In June 2022, the Commission endorsed the proposed authorization statement and credential requirements for updating the current Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential (ECE Specialist).

In August 2022, the Commission adopted the authorization and credential requirements for the PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential. The Commission adopted the Program Preconditions, Program Standards, and Teaching Performance Expectations for the PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential in October 2022.

Subsequently, the Commission began the regulatory process and in April 2023 approved and submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) proposed final regulations to add 80067.1, 80067.2, 80067.3, and 80067.4 to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) pertaining to the new option of the PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential. Since submitting the original regulatory packet, staff has worked closely with the OAL, the

Commission, and the field throughout the process to respond to questions, make minor edits to ensure clarity, and to finalize the regulations packet for approval.

This credential is responsive both to the direction provided by the state's *Master Plan for Early Learning and Care: Making California for All Kids* and to the need for additional ECE teachers to support the statewide Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK). The PK-3 Early Childhood (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential focuses on developmentally appropriate practices for young children in grades PK through 3. PK-3 teachers are expected to design, implement, and facilitate learning activities throughout this grade span which engage students according to their developmental levels.

The Commission is currently accepting proposals for new PK-3 Early Childhood (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential programs from Commission approved sponsors. Proposals submitted prior to the regulations' approval remain in the review process in the order in which they were received. Institutions should continue to respond to feedback and communicate with the Initial Program Review (IPR) team when they are prepared to resubmit their proposal. Proposed programs must provide evidence in accordance with the submission requirements found on the [Submitting a Proposal for a New Educator Preparation Program in California](#) (IPR) webpage. Program proposals will be checked for compliance with the submission requirements. Proposals not in compliance will be returned and will not move forward in the review and approval process until resubmitted in accordance with the requirements. No PK-3 Early Childhood (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential teacher preparation programs will be approved until after the regulation effective date, which is April 1, 2024.

Commission staff have scheduled office hours and technical assistance opportunities to assist programs in understanding the new PK-3 Early Childhood (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential and respond to questions about the program submission process.

**Sources:**

[Final Regulatory Text Language](#)

[June 2022 Commission Meeting](#)

[August 2022 Commission Meeting](#)

[October 2022 Commission Meeting](#)

[April 2023 Commission Meeting](#)

[Master Plan for Early Learning and Care: Making California for All Kids](#)

[PK-3 Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) Specialist Instruction Credential Webpage](#)

[PK-3 Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) Specialist Instruction Credential FAQ](#)

[PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential Handbook](#)

[Clinical Practice Guide for the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential](#)

[Initial Program Review – Submitting a proposal for a new PK-3 Education \(ECE\) Specialist Instruction Credential Program](#)

**Contact Information:**

For general questions about the PK-3 Early Childhood (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential please contact the ECE team at [ECE@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:ECE@ctc.ca.gov).

For questions about program requirements and submitting a proposal for a new PK-3 Early Childhood (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential program, please contact the IPR team at [IPR@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:IPR@ctc.ca.gov).

For IPR and ECE Office Hours, please visit the [Accreditation Technical Assistance](#) page.