



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

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**DATE:**

February 19, 2025

**NUMBER:**

25-01

**SUBJECT: FLEXIBILITIES FOR COMMISSION-APPROVED PRELIMINARY MULTIPLE AND SINGLE SUBJECT AND INDUCTION PROGRAMS AFFECTED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES OF JANUARY 2025**

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**Summary:**

This Program Sponsor Alert provides information on the program flexibilities approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing at its meeting on February 6-7, 2025. The flexibilities described herein reflect only the program areas the Commission has the authority to modify and may be applied only to credential candidates who have been directly impacted by the wildfires in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties in January 2025.

**Key Provisions:**

On February 6, 2025, the Commission approved the flexibilities described herein for current candidates enrolled in Commission-approved Multiple Subject, Single Subject, and Induction educator preparation programs who have been directly impacted by the wildfires in the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura in January 2025.

The Commission's authority to waive or modify requirements or provide flexibilities around credential requirements is limited. Requirements that are in statute may not be modified by the Commission. Only two types of actions may modify a statutory requirement: legislative action or an executive order enacted by the Governor. Regulations often clarify or further interpret statute and are adopted by action of the Commission and reviewed and approved by the Office of Administrative Law. As such, regulations may only be changed by promulgating new regulations or may be superseded by an act of the legislature or Governor.

Requirements or policies that have been put in place by the Commission may be modified through formal action of the Commission. In general, Commission-adopted program standards define what the program needs to offer and what the candidate needs to know and be able to do, but the manner in which this is done is left largely up to the program. As such, programs

have the authority to modify their coursework, clinical practice, and program-embedded assessments (other than teaching or administrator performance assessments) as long as the program still maintains alignment to the standards.

The options on the following pages have been approved by the Commission. Programs are expected to do all of the following:

1. Apply these options **only** to candidates who were **directly impacted by these fires and were on track to complete** their educator preparation program between January 7 and September 1, 2025.
2. Recommend eligible candidates by September 1, 2026.
3. Include a memo with the recommendation, developed by the Commission, attesting, among other things, that the program has determined the candidate's competency for the credential being earned.
4. Apply these flexibilities judiciously and evaluate candidates on a case-by-case basis.
5. Maintain records demonstrating the rationale for any candidate recommended for a credential under one or more of these flexibilities.

#### Preliminary Multiple and Single Subject Credential Flexibilities

The following flexibilities are available **only** to candidates who were **directly impacted by these fires and were on track to complete** their educator preparation program between January 7 and September 1, 2025.

***With respect to the 600 hours of clinical practice***, the Commission approved the option to allow programs to make the determination as to when a candidate has completed sufficient clinical practice. This modification must be noted on the Individual Development Plan (IDP) that the candidate and preliminary program develop for the new teacher to take to their induction program.

***With respect to the number of formal observations***, the Commission approved the option to suspend the specified number of formal observations while still maintaining the requirement that each candidate must be supervised and supported in clinical practice. Through this action, Commission delegated the responsibility for the determination of sufficient supervision for a candidate to the Commission-approved program.

***With respect to solo or final student teaching***, the Commission approved the option to suspend the four-week solo teaching requirement and will rely on the Commission-approved teacher preparation program to ensure the candidate has had sufficient opportunities to independently work with students.

### Teacher and Administrator Induction Flexibilities

The following flexibilities are available **only** to candidates who were **directly impacted by these fires and were on track to complete** their educator preparation program between January 7 and September 1, 2025.

The Commission approved the allowance for programs to recognize the 2024-25 year of participation in induction as a full year even though the school year was interrupted by the wildfires. Again, this should be applied judiciously to candidates directly affected by the fires.

### **Important Dates:**

The flexibilities described in this Program Sponsor Alert are intended for candidates who were directly impacted by the fires who were on track to complete their Multiple/Single Subject and/or Induction educator preparation program between January 7 and September 1, 2025.

Programs must recommend eligible candidates by September 1, 2026, and include a memo, developed by Commission staff, attesting, among other things, that the program has determined the candidate's competency for the credential being earned.

### **Background:**

On January 7, 2025, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties in the wake of the state of the Palisades Fire and in light of impending windstorm conditions. Within a few days, the fires expanded to include San Bernardino and San Diego counties. According to information provided by the California Department of Education as of January 10, more than 1,000 PK-12 schools across 26 districts have experienced closures affecting more than 600,000 students. Within the four counties there are 35 institutions of higher education and 54 local education agencies offering educator preparation programs ranging from preliminary preparation to induction. Data from the Commission's Accreditation Data System shows approximately 47,000 enrolled candidates in preparation programs across the spectrum of credential areas in the counties most directly impacted by the fires. Staff estimated approximately 25-30% of the enrolled candidates are in the final year of preparation, a good portion of whom are preparing to complete clinical practice, performance assessments (if applicable to their credential area), and/or other program requirements with the intention of completing their program and being credentialed and employed for the upcoming academic year.

### **Sources:**

[Commission agenda item 4E: Flexibilities for Commission-Approved Educator Preparation Programs Due to the Effects of the Southern California Wildfires](#)

### **References:**

[Preliminary Multiple Subject and Single Subject Credential Program Standards and Teaching Expectations](#)

[Teacher Induction Program Preconditions and Program Standards](#)

**Contact Information:**

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