



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT **UPDATED**

DATE:

Updated July 11, 2025

NUMBER:

25-03

SUBJECT: UPDATED 2025 TRANSITION GUIDANCE FOR MULTIPLE SUBJECT, SINGLE SUBJECT, WORLD LANGUAGE, AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST (MILD TO MODERATE AND EXTENSIVE SUPPORT NEEDS) PRELIMINARY PREPARATION PROGRAMS USING THE CALTPA

Summary:

This PSA has been updated to clarify RICA requirements and registration deadlines and the dates of the 2025/26 performance assessments. Please refer to the green highlighted text for the updates.

This Program Sponsor Alert is a revised version of PSA 25-03. The purpose of this PSA is to inform Multiple Subject (MS), Single Subject (SS), World Language (WL), and Education Specialist (EdSp): Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN), and Extensive Support Needs (ESN) preliminary teacher preparation programs using the CalTPA of transition processes for the revised CalTPA Cycles 1 and 2 intended to support candidates in meeting the Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) requirement. Changes to the CalTPA model go into effect July 1, 2025.

Key Provisions:

CalTPA consists of a two-cycle format with each instructional cycle structured around the four action steps of (1) Plan, (2) Teach and Assess, (3) Reflect, and (4) Apply. Candidates must take and pass both cycles in the credential area they are seeking. The 2024-25 version of *Cycle 1: Learning About Students and Planning Instruction* requires candidates to learn about their students' cultural and linguistic assets and learning needs and use the information to plan instruction for one standards-based lesson. The 2024-25 version of *Cycle 2: Assessment Driven Instruction* requires candidates to plan and teach a standards-based learning segment of three-to-five lessons that includes informal assessment, student self-assessment, and formal assessment.

In the 2024-25 versions, MS and EdSp: MMSN and ESN candidates have the choice to focus on literacy instruction in either CalTPA Cycle 1 or 2 and on math in the other cycle. SS and WL candidates complete both cycles in their appropriate content area.

Senate Bill 488 and the New Literacy Cycle

In 2021, [Senate Bill 488](#) (Chap. 678, Stats. 2021) amended Education Code section 44320.3 to require the Commission develop and implement a new literacy performance assessment to replace the RICA exam beginning July 1, 2025¹. In compliance with this statute, the Commission developed a new Literacy Cycle that replaced the 2024-25 version of CalTPA Cycle 2 for MS and EdSp: MMSN and ESN. Changes have also been made to the SS and WL cycles to ensure alignment with the new 2025-26 version of the MS and EdSp: MMSN and ESN cycles. These changes are also based on feedback from candidates and programs and are intended to improve candidate engagement with the TPA. All changes to SS and WL will be detailed in webinars to support the field with the transition.

Combining Passing Scores Across Versions

To support candidates and programs as they transition to the 2025-26 versions of the CalTPA beginning July 1, 2025, candidates who earned a passing score on a CalTPA Cycle after July 1, 2018 will be allowed to use that passing score, along with passing scores from the new versions (2025-26 or after) in the same credential area, to meet the performance assessment requirement (e.g. MS candidate who passes the 2024-25 Cycle 1 in math may combine this cycle with the new 2025-26 Literacy Cycle). See Tables 1 and 2 for further information about combining cycle scores.

Guidance for MS and EdSp: MMSN and ESN Programs

MS and EdSp: MMSN and ESN programs should take into consideration their program design in determining how to best advise candidates regarding the transition from the current 2024-25 CalTPA version (Cycles 1 and 2) to the 2025-26 version (*Math Cycle: Learning about Students (with IEPs) and Planning a Math Lesson* and *Literacy Cycle: Assessment-Driven Literacy Instruction*). Table 1 provides guidance to MS and EdSp- MMSN and ESN programs using CalTPA.

Guidance for SS and WL Programs

SS and WL programs should consider their program design in determining how to advise candidates regarding the transition from the current 2024-25 CalTPA version to the revised 2025-26 versions. Table 2 provides guidance to SS and WL programs using CalTPA.

Registration and Submission Timeline

Candidates who **registered** for the 2024-25 version of CalTPA Cycles 1 and/or 2 **prior to the** final registration date for 2024-25 ([June 30, 2025](#)) will be allowed to submit/resubmit the 2024-

¹ Pursuant to SB 488, all credential candidates in preliminary programs for PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction, MS, and EdSp: MMSN, ESN, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH), and Visual Impairments (VI) must pass a Commission-approved performance assessment that includes literacy instruction in order to be recommended for their credential beginning July 1, 2025. **The last date for candidates who have completed all program requirements, including passage of a teaching performance assessment, to register for and take the RICA exam**

25 versions of the Cycle(s) until **June 30, 2026**, **OR** they can choose to transition to the 2025-26 version of the CalTPA.

Candidates who **previously submitted** at least one of the 2024-25 Cycle(s) (or a previous version), but who did not receive a passing score will be able to register for the 2024-25 version(s) of the Cycle(s) after June 30, 2025, **OR** they can choose to transition to the 2025-26 version of the CalTPA.

Candidates who met the registration deadline of June 30, 2025, for at least one 2024–25 CalTPA cycle, may choose from two pathways to complete their performance assessment requirement.

Option 1: Complete Only the 24/25 Cycles

If they registered for at least one 2024–25 cycle by June 30, 2025, candidates may complete both Cycle 1 and 2 using the 2024–25 versions as long as one cycle is in Math and one is in Literacy. Registration for the remaining 2024–25 cycle is allowed after June 30, 2025, including for candidates who did not pass a previous attempt. Both 2024–25 cycles must be passed by June 30, 2026.

- Completing both cycles using only the 2024–25 versions requires meeting the literacy requirement separately. Passage of the 2024–25 version of Cycle 1 or 2 in Literacy **does not** fulfill the literacy requirement.

Option 2: Mix and Match 24/25 and 25/26 Cycles

If registered for at least one 2024–25 cycle by June 30, 2025, candidates may choose to complete the remaining cycle using the 2025–26 version, available beginning September 23, 2025. Mixing 2024–25 and 2025–26 cycles is allowed as long as one cycle is in Math and one is in Literacy.

- Passage of the 2024–25 version of Cycle 1 or 2 in Literacy **does not** fulfill the literacy requirement.
- Passage of the 2025–26 Literacy Cycle fulfills the literacy requirement.

Candidates who do not receive a passing score on both cycles of the 2024-25 version by the **June 30, 2026** submission date will be required to complete and submit the 2026-27 version of the CalTPA.

[AB 121 \(Chap. 8, Stats. 2025\)](#) extends the sunset date for RICA to October 31, 2025, meaning candidates who have completed all program requirements, including passage of a teaching performance assessment, have until this date to take and pass the RICA.

Tables 1 and 2 provide program advisement to candidates on navigating the 2025-26 transition year.

Table 1: Guidance for Candidates in Programs using CalTPA – MS and EdSp: MMSN and ESN

Credential Scenarios	CalTPA Submission Options 2024/25 Academic Year	Options if 2024/25 Submitted Cycle(s) Not Passed ² (Extension available until June 30, 2026)	Candidate Options to Meet Literacy Requirement
If the candidate completed CalTPA by July 3, 2025 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle 1 Math Cycle 2 Literacy 	Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 in Math and Cycle 2 in Literacy by July 3, 2025 , and meet the literacy requirement	Register for the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 in Math and/or Cycle 2 in Literacy by June 30, 2025, pass both the 24/25 Cycles by June 30, 2026, and meet the literacy requirement -OR- Take and pass the 25/26 version of the Math and/or Literacy Cycles available September 23, 2025 ³	RICA ⁴ available until October 31, 2025 , -OR- Foundations of Reading exam available July 1, 2025, -OR- 25/26 version of the Literacy Cycle available September 23, 2025
If the candidate completed CalTPA by July 3, 2025 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle 1 Literacy Cycle 2 Math 	Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 in Literacy and Cycle 2 in Math by July 3, 2025 , and meet the literacy requirement	Register for the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 in Literacy and/or Cycle 2 in Math by June 30, 2025, pass both the 24/25 Cycles by June 30, 2026, and meet the literacy requirement -OR- Take and pass the 25/26 version of the Math and Literacy Cycles available September 23, 2025	RICA ⁴ available until October 31, 2025 , -OR- Foundations of Reading exam available July 1, 2025, -OR- 25/26 version of the Literacy Cycle available September 23, 2025
If the candidate enrolled in a multi-year Preliminary program on or before June 30, 2025 , AND plans to complete their program in 2025-26 (or beyond)	Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle(s) 1 and/or 2, and meet the literacy requirement -OR- Wait until after September 23, 2025 , to take the 25/26 version of the Math and/or Literacy Cycle(s)	Register for the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 in Math and/or Cycle 2 in Literacy by June 30, 2025, pass both the 24/25 Cycles by June 30, 2026, and meet the literacy requirement -OR- Take and pass the 25/26 version of the Math and/or Literacy Cycle(s) available September 23, 2025	RICA ⁴ available until October 31, 2025 , -OR- Foundations of Reading exam available July 1, 2025, -OR- 25/26 version of the Literacy Cycle available September 23, 2025
If the candidate enrolled in a Preliminary program on or before June 30, 2025 , AND plans to complete their program in 2025-26 (or beyond) AND has already passed the RICA	Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle(s) 1 and/or 2, and meet the literacy requirement -OR- Wait until after September 23, 2025 , to take the 25/26 version of the Math and/or Literacy Cycle(s)	Register for the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2 by June 30, 2025, and pass both the 24/25 Cycles by June 30, 2026 -OR- Take and pass the 25/26 version of the Math and/or Literacy Cycle(s) available September 23, 2025	Literacy requirement met through the passage of RICA
If the candidate enrolls in a preliminary program on or after July 1, 2025	Wait until after September 23, 2025 , to take the 25/26 version of the Math and Literacy Cycles	N/A	Literacy requirement met through passage of the 25/26 version of the Literacy Cycle.

² **“Not passed”** includes candidates who **attempt** CalTPA Cycles 1 and/or 2 by July 3, 2025, but do not pass or receive condition code and candidates who complete and pass only one of the two 2024-25 cycles.

³ In the 25/26 version of CalTPA, Cycle 1 becomes the Math Cycle and Cycle 2 becomes the Literacy Cycle. Cycle 1 in Literacy and Cycle 2 in Math will no longer be available.

⁴ [Last date for candidates who have completed all program requirements, including passage of a teaching performance assessment, to register for and take the RICA exam](#)

Important Dates (Multiple Subject, Education Specialist: MMSN and ESN – see Table 1):

- June 30, 2025:
 - Last date for candidates who have not taken any CalTPA Cycles to register for the 2024-25 version of CalTPA Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2
 - Candidates who have already passed one of the 24-25 versions of Cycle 1 or 2 (or previous versions) will be able to register for the 2024-25 version(s) of the Cycle(s) after June 30, 2025.
 - Candidates who have already attempted one of the 24-25 versions of Cycle 1 or 2 (or previous versions) but who did not receive a passing score will be able to register for the 2024-25 version(s) of the Cycle(s) after June 30, 2025.
- September 23, 2025:
 - First day to register for 2025-2026 versions of CalTPA
- October 31, 2025
 - Last date for candidates who have completed all program requirements, including passage of a teaching performance assessment, to register for and take the RICA exam
- June 30, 2026
 - Last date for candidates to submit 2024-25 versions of the CalTPA Cycles 1 and/or 2

Table 2: Guidance for Candidates in Programs using CalTPA – SS and WL

Credential Scenarios	CalTPA Submission Options 2024/25 Academic Year	Options if 2024/25 Submitted Cycle(s) Not Passed (Extension option available until June 30, 2026)
If the candidate completed CalTPA by July 3, 2025	Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 by July 3, 2025	Register for the 24/25 of Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2 and pass both 24/25 Cycles by June 30, 2026 -OR- Take and pass the 25/26 version of Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2 available September 23, 2025
If the candidate enrolled in a multi-year Preliminary program on or before June 30, 2025, AND plans to complete their program in 2025-26 (or beyond)	Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle(s) 1 and/or 2 -OR- Wait until after September 23, 2025 , to take the 25/26 version of Cycle(s) 1 and/or Cycle 2	Register for the 24/25 of Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2 and pass both 24/25 Cycles by June 30, 2026 -OR- Take and pass the 25/26 version of Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2, available September 23, 2025
If the candidate enrolls in a preliminary program on or after July 1, 2025 or later	Take and pass the 25/26 version of Cycle 1 and Cycle 2, available September 23, 2025	N/A

Important Dates (Single Subject, World Language- see Table 2):

- June 30, 2025:
 - Last date for candidates who have not taken any CalTPA Cycles to register for the 2024-25 version of CalTPA Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2
 - Candidates who have already passed one of the 24-25 versions of Cycle 1 or 2 (or previous versions) will be able to register for the 2024-25 version(s) of the Cycle(s) after June 30, 2025.
 - Candidates who have already attempted one of the 24-25 versions of Cycle 1 or 2 (or previous versions) but who did not receive a passing score will be able to register for the 2024-25 version(s) of the Cycle(s) after June 30, 2025.
- September 23, 2025:
 - All 2025-26 versions Single Subject and World Languages become operational
- June 30, 2026
 - Last date for candidates to submit 2024-25 versions of the CalTPA Cycles 1 and 2

Background:

Section 44259(b)(3)(A) of the Education Code establishes the minimum requirements for earning a Preliminary Multiple or Single Subject teaching credential, which includes passage of a TPA approved by the Commission. Assembly Bill 320 (Medina, Chap. 663, Stats. 2021) added passage of a TPA to the requirements for earning an Education Specialist Credential. Currently, a teacher candidate in a preparation program is required to complete a TPA that is Commission approved and is consistently applied to candidates in similar preparation programs.

Education Code sections 44283 and 44283.2 require that MS and EdSp candidates pass an assessment of competence in reading instruction before receiving a preliminary credential. The assessment developed by the Commission for this purpose is the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment, commonly known as the RICA.

Following the passage of SB 488 (Chap. 678, Stats. 2021), Education Code [§44283](#) and [§44283.2](#) were amended and EC [§44259](#) (b) (4) (A) and (B) were added to require the Commission to complete a series of actions related to literacy instruction. Pursuant to SB 488, all approved TPAs must include a literacy component that meets the requirement of SB 488 by July 1, 2025, as a replacement for the RICA requirement. The TPA provides the opportunity to measure TPE elements observable through performance assessment that beginning teachers must be able to demonstrate prior to being recommended for a preliminary credential.

References:

[Senate Bill 488 \(2021\)](#)
[CalTPA 24/25 Submission Dates](#)
[AB-121](#)

Commission Agenda Items
[Agenda Item 2C: October 2023](#)

[Agenda Item 4E: June 2024](#)
[Agenda Item 5B: August 2024](#)
[Agenda Item 5D: August 2024](#)
[Agenda Item 4C: October 2024](#)
[Agenda Item 3D: April 2025](#)
[Agenda Item 3C: June 2025](#)
[Agenda Item 3D: June 2025](#)
[Agenda Item 3E: June 2025](#)

Program Sponsor Alert (PSA)

[PSA 24-02](#) (TPA Secondary Passing Standard)

[PSA 24-10](#) (Foundations of Reading Exam Options)

[PSA 25-07](#) (Final Flexibilities for Meeting RICA Requirement and COVID-Era Performance Assessment Deferrals)

Contact Information:

For questions about this PSA please contact caltpa@ctc.ca.gov. For questions specific to the development of the literacy performance assessment, please contact literacy@ctc.ca.gov. For technical assistance regarding registrations, call (866) 613-3279 or contact Evaluation System.