



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

DATE:
3/25/2025

NUMBER:
25-03

SUBJECT: 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 Program Sponsor Alert informs 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.

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 has developed and is field testing a new Literacy Cycle that will replace 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.

To support candidates and programs as they transition to the 2025-26 versions of the CalTPA beginning July 1, 2025, candidates will be allowed to use passing scores from the 2024-25 versions of the cycles along with passing scores from the new 2025-26 versions 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 available July 1, 2025). In using this option, however, candidates just complete one cycle that covers math and one that covers literacy, regardless of which version of the CalTPA is being used. See Tables 1 and 2 for further information about combining cycle scores.

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 *Math Cycle: Learning about Students (with IEPs) and Planning a Math Lesson* and *Literacy Cycle: Assessment-Driven Literacy Instruction*, which are currently under development and are in the field test phase.

SS and WL 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 to the 2025-26 version *Cycle 1: Learning about Students and Planning Instruction* and *Cycle 2: Assessment-Driven Instruction*.

Candidates who register for the 2024-25 version of CalTPA Cycles 1 and/or 2 by the final registration date for 2024-25 ([June 30, 2025](#)) will be allowed to resubmit the 2024-25 version of the Cycle(s) until **June 30, 2026**, **OR** they can choose to transition to the 2025-26 version of the CalTPA. 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.

Tables 1 and 2 provide candidate advisement on navigating the 2025-26 transition year.

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.

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 <i>(Extension option available until June 30, 2026)</i>	Candidate Options to Meet Literacy Requirement
<p>If the candidate is completing CalTPA by July 3, 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle 1 Math • Cycle 2 Literacy 	<p>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</p>	<p>Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 in Math and/or Cycle 2 in Literacy 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 August 26, 2025³</p>	<p>RICA* available until June 30, 2025, -OR- Foundations of Reading exam available July 1, 2025, -OR- 25/26 version of the Literacy Cycle available Summer 2025</p>
<p>If the candidate is completing CalTPA by July 3, 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle 1 Literacy • Cycle 2 Math 	<p>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</p>	<p>Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 in Literacy and/or Cycle 2 in Math by June 30, 2026, and meet the literacy requirement -OR- Take and pass the 25/26 version of the Math and Literacy Cycles available August 26, 2025</p>	<p>RICA* available until June 30, 2025, -OR- Foundations of Reading exam available July 1, 2025, -OR- 25/26 version of the Literacy Cycle available Summer 2025</p>
<p>If the candidate enrolls in a multi-year Preliminary program on or before June 30, 2025, and plans to complete their program in 2025-26 (or beyond)</p>	<p>Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle(s) 1 and/or 2, and meet the literacy requirement -OR- Wait until after August 26, 2025, to take the 25/26 version of the Math and/or Literacy Cycle(s)</p>	<p>Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 in Math and/or Cycle 2 in Literacy 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 August 26, 2025</p>	<p>RICA* available until June 30, 2025, -OR- Foundations of Reading exam available July 1, 2025, -OR- 25/26 version of the Literacy Cycle available Summer 2025</p>
<p>If the candidate enrolls in a preliminary program on or after July 1, 2025</p>	<p>Wait until after August 26, 2025, to take the 25/26 version of the Math and Literacy Cycles</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Literacy requirement met through passage of the 25/26 version of the Literacy Cycle.</p>

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.

* [October 2024 Item 4C](#): Options to Support Teachers and Candidates During the Transition from the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment to the New Literacy Performance Assessment

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

- June 30, 2025:
 - Last date for candidates to register and take the RICA exam
 - Last date to register for the 2024-25 version of CalTPA Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2
- July 1, 2025:
 - CalTPA 2025-26 versions will be approved by the Commission (replaces RICA requirement)
- June 30, 2026
 - Last date for candidates who meet the qualifications in Table 1 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 <i>(Extension option available until June 30, 2026)</i>
If the candidate is completing CalTPA by July 3, 2025	Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 by July 3, 2025	Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2 by June 30, 2026 -OR- Take and pass the 25/26 version of Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2 not passed
If the candidate enrolls 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 July 1, 2025, to take the 25/26 version of Cycle(s) 1 and/or Cycle 2	Take and pass the 24/25 version of Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2 by June 30, 2026 -OR- Take and pass the 25/26 version of Cycle 1 and/or Cycle 2 available July 1, 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 starting July 1, 2025	N/A

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

- June 30, 2025:
 - Last date to register for the 2024-25 version of CalTPA Cycles 1 and 2
- July 1, 2025:
 - All 2025-26 versions Single Subject and World Languages become operational
- June 30, 2026
 - Last date for candidates who meet the qualifications in Table 2 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](#)

Commission Agenda Items

[Agenda Item 4E: June 2024](#)

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

[Agenda Item 5B: August 2024](#)

[Agenda Item 5D: August 2024](#)

[Agenda Item 4C: October 2024](#)

Program Sponsor Alert (PSA)

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

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

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.