Age Distribution of New Teaching Credential Holders, 2012-2013

In 2012-2013, about 12,000 new preliminary teaching credentials were issued by California institutions of higher education and District program sponsors. In addition, another 2,200 intern credentials were issued to university interns and district interns. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing gathers information on the age of credential holders as part of the application process. An analysis of the age distribution of all new teaching credentials issued in the academic year 2012-2013 revealed some interesting findings.

For the preliminary teaching credentials, more than two-thirds (64 percent) of the credential holders were in the 21-30 age group. Another one-fourth (22 percent) were in the 31-40 age group. Less than one tenth were in the 41-50 age group and the remaining 5 percent were older than 51. The average age of the new California preliminary teaching credential holders in 2012-2013 was 31.7 years.

For the intern credentials, nearly half (48 percent) were in the 21-30 age group. Another one-third (31 percent) were in the 31-40 age group and another 14 percent were in the 41-50 age group. Less than one-tenth (7 percent) were older than 51. The average age of the new intern teaching credential holders in 2012-2013 was 32.5 years.

Note: Preliminary credentials include California recommended teaching credentials only. Intern credentials include University and District intern teaching credentials. Data include initial credentials only; do not include renewals.

Further analysis of age groups by teaching credentials (Multiple Subjects, Single Subject, and Education Specialist) indicated the following: Single Subject Preliminary teaching credential holders were on average older (30.4 years) than the Single Subject Intern teaching credential holders (29.9 years). Similarly, Multiple Subject Preliminary teaching credentials were on average slightly older (29.6 years) than Multiple Subject Intern teaching credential holders (29.3 years). By contrast, Education Specialist Preliminary teaching credential holders were on average slightly younger (35.1 years) than the Education Specialist intern credential holders (35.3 years). District intern credential holders were the oldest of all credential types with an average age of 35.5 years.

In summary, the average age differed by preparation route: the intern teaching credential holders’ average age was slightly higher (0.8 years) than that of preliminary credential holders. The average age also differed by teaching credentials types – ranging from 29.3 years for Multiple Subjects intern credentials to 35.3 years for Education Specialist intern credentials.