

Need some quick facts about credentials?

For more information about common types of
teaching credentials, scan the QR code.



I figured out what credential I want. What's next?

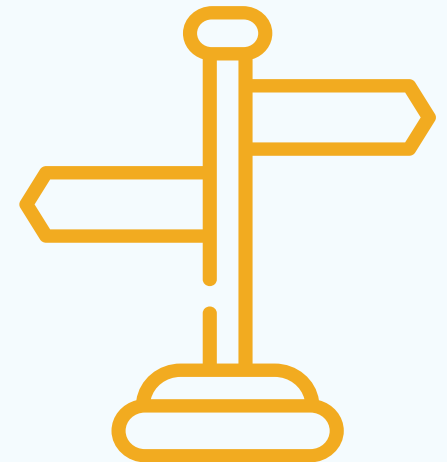
Scan the QR code to find the next resource in our
series: Identify Your Pathway!



Roadmap to Teaching



Decide What You Want to Teach



We can help you learn about what it takes to become a licensed educator, depending on the type of role you are interested in. The first decision you need to make are what classroom setting, subject(s) and what student population you want to teach.

In California, you will find these common types of classroom settings:

- **Self-contained:** In self-contained classrooms, you are teaching more than one subject to the same group of students all year round. You will usually find this setting in elementary schools and the lower grade levels in K-8 schools.
- **Departmentalized:** In departmentalized classrooms, you are teaching only one subject to different groups of students each period. You will usually find this setting in middle and high schools.
- **Core setting:** This is a hybrid of the two settings, allowing middle school aged children to dip their toes into departmentalized settings while still primarily staying with the same “core” group of students. In core settings, you are teaching two or more subjects to the same group of students in the same day. This is a common scenario seen at many middle schools.

Types of Credentials

What type of credential you need depends on the setting, what subject(s) are being taught, and the grade level of the students.

- If you only want to teach students 3rd grade and below, then you need the **PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction credential**.
- If you want to teach elementary, K-8, or middle school students and teach more than one subject, then you need the **Multiple Subject credential**.

This is a generalist credential which is most commonly used at the elementary school level to teach in self-contained classrooms, but also in some middle schools in core settings. If you go with this credential, you have to teach more than one subject.

- If you want to teach only one subject to middle school or high school students, then you need the **Single Subject credential**.

There are many subject areas that a Single Subject credential can be issued in. This is a specialized credential which is most commonly used at the middle and high school level, although there are some elementary school positions in which a Single Subject credential teacher will go to multiple school sites teaching one subject or teach one subject to all the students at the same school site (usually for very specific subjects such as Music, Art, or PE). Despite the name, it is possible to have more than one subject on your Single Subject credential.



Find Your Career Path

There are many other types of credentials and roles you might be interested in. Scan the QR code to try our interactive Find Your Career Path tool and decide what would suit you best!

- If you want to teach students with disabilities (Special Education), then you need the **Education Specialist Instruction credential**.
- This credential allows the holder to teach any subject to students with disabilities as long as the credential specialty area (there are five specialty areas). You would be authorized to teach Special Education at any level: elementary, middle, and high school.
- If you want to teach vocational or trade education, then you need the **Career Technical Education (CTE) credential**.
- There are a variety of subject areas that a CTE credential can be issued in, and they are typically used for elective courses found in middle school and high school. Some examples include agriculture, building and construction trades, finance, engineering, and fashion to name a few.
- No bachelor's degree required. This credential is mostly qualified for based on work experience in a specific field.