



PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential Webinar

September 30, 2025

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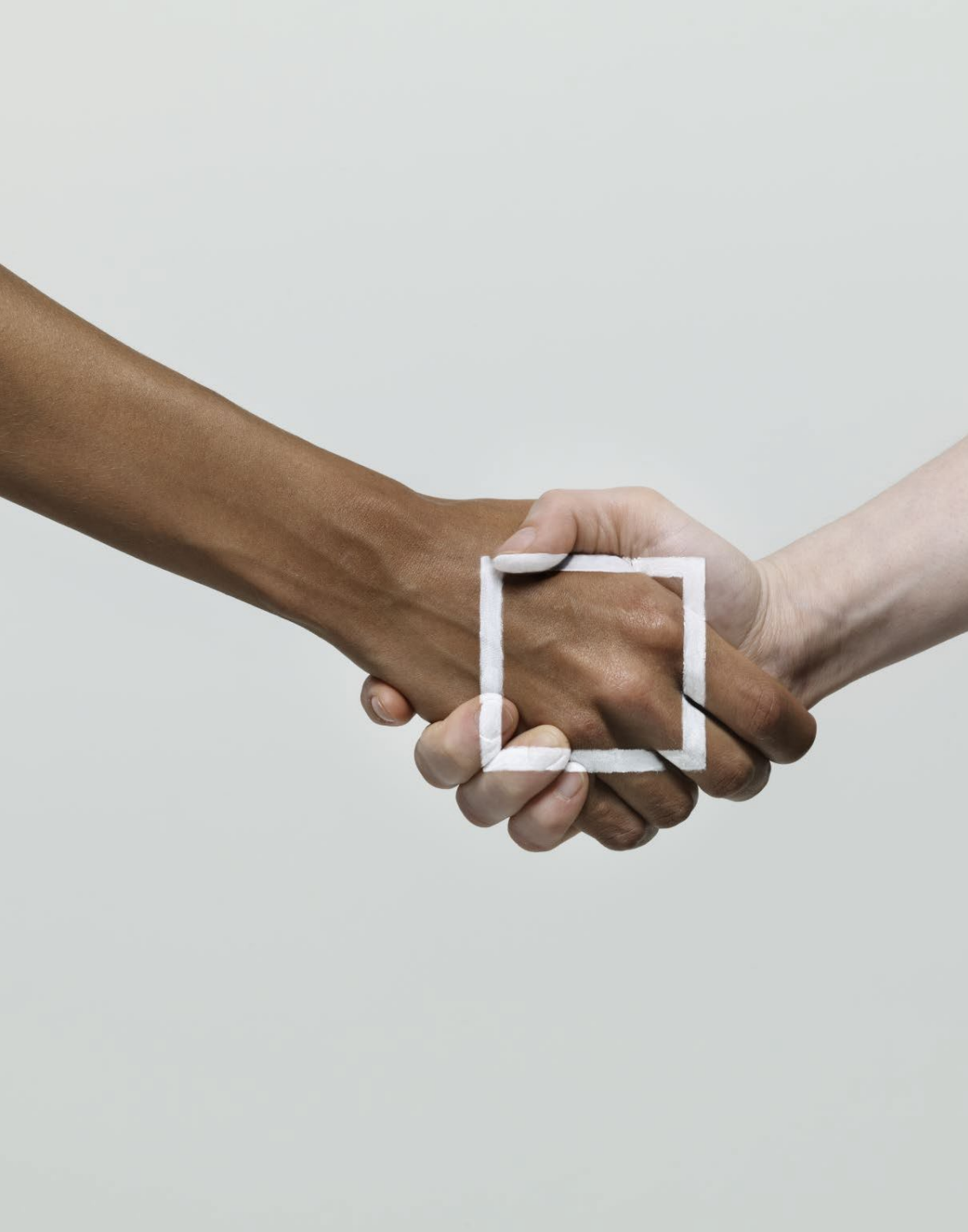
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Welcome & Introductions

- Renee Marshall, Administrator, Professional Services Division
- Bronwyn Kennedy, Consultant, Professional Services Division
- Dr. Debra Keeler, Consultant, Professional Services Division
- Dr. Rosemary Wrenn, Consultant, Professional Services Division
- Nicholas Newman, Career Counselor, Certification Division





Please Introduce Yourself In the Chat

Share your:

- Name
- Job Title
- Affiliation



Requirements for PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential

Bachelors or higher degree from regionally accredited institution of higher education

Subject Matter Requirement

- 24 units in ECE/Child Development OR
- BA or above in one of nine specific majors

Completion of Preliminary PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential Program

- Teacher preparation coursework (theory and pedagogy) at a Commission approved PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Program
- Clinical Practice
- Introduce/Practice/Assess Teaching Performance Expectations

Passage of Commission-Approved Teaching Performance Assessment

- PK-3 CalTPA Cycle 1 in a PK-3 placement
- PK-3 CalTPA Cycle 2 in a TK-3 placement

Subject Matter Requirement – 2 options

BACCALAUREATE OR HIGHER DEGREE FROM A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED INSTITUTION IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Child Development
- Child and Adolescent Development
- Human Development
- Early Childhood Education
- Child and Family Studies
- Early Childhood Studies
- Human Development and Family Science
- Family Science
- Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies

COURSEWORK

Completion of 24 semester units or the equivalent quarter units of non-remedial, degree-applicable coursework at a regionally accredited institution of higher education in early childhood education and/or child development



Clinical Practice Requirement

- Clinical Practice of 600 hours in a PK-3 classroom is a **required developmental, sequential, and intentional** set of activities integrated with educator preparation program coursework.
- Candidates have a supervisor from the program and a mentor teacher in the classroom.
- Essential element of credential program. To ensure candidates are ready to teach the span of ages authorized and to be successful on the Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA), this credential requires placement in **both** a **PK/TK** setting **and** a **K-3** setting.
- Programs offer a variety of clinical practice structures to choose from.
- While it is possible to earn equivalency for the PK/TK placement based on prior employment or completion of a practicum, all candidates for this credential must complete clinical practice. (There is no equivalency available for the K-3 placement.)



Option 1:

Professional Equivalency for Clinical Practice

One of the following

- Child Development Permit: teacher level or higher
- Lead teacher in Head Start program
- Lead teacher in childcare and development center serving preschool-aged children

AND

Six years or more of satisfactory, full-time teaching

- Candidate must provide written verification – See PK-3 Credential Handbook for specifics

Program must grant 200 hours equivalency

No 'partial credit'



Option 2:

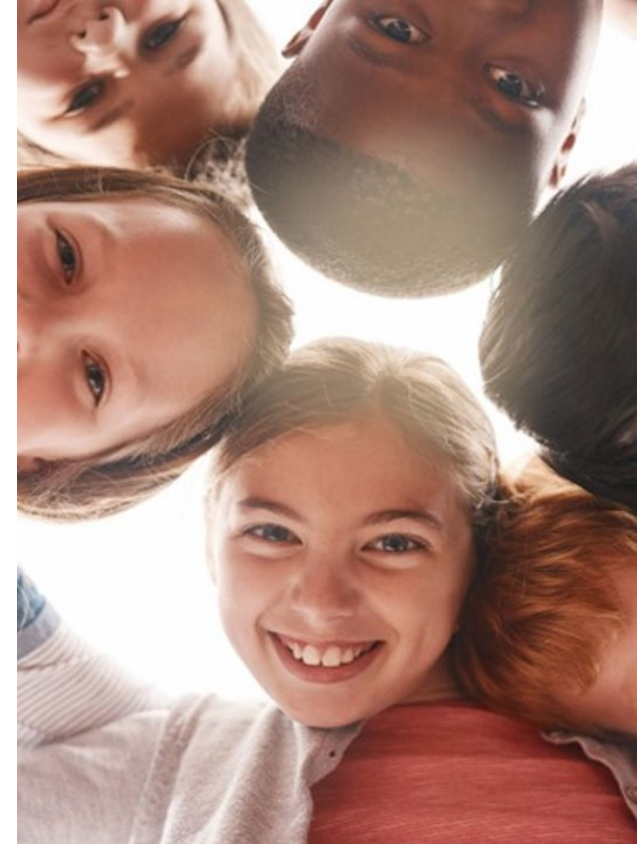
Practicum Equivalency for Clinical Practice

- Regionally accredited institute of higher education (IHE)
- Credit-bearing and degree applicable
- Completed in preschool or ECE setting serving 3–4-year-old children
- Supervised by trained faculty member/instructor with expertise in ECE/CD pedagogy and includes observation, feedback, reflection
- Grade of C or better – candidate provides transcripts
- Equivalency granted commensurate with number of practicum hours completed. (Up to 200 hours)



Notes on Clinical Practice

- If granting equivalency, programs may combine work experience and practicum for up to total of 400 hours equivalency.
- Must complete minimum of 200 hours in K-3.
- Clinical Practice is crucial to preparation and is where candidates develop competencies.
- Programs are responsible for preparing candidates for success on the Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) and ensure appropriate placement for completing it.
- Programs may require more than minimum of 600 hours.
- Formal observations: Minimum 6 per semester or 4 per quarter.



Is a teaching
credential
required to
teach TK-3 in a
public
elementary
school setting?



I already hold a credential... Now what?



Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Holders

Must also hold an appropriate English Learner Authorization.

Meet subject matter competency requirement for the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential.

Direct application mailed to the Commission with the application fee and supporting documents.

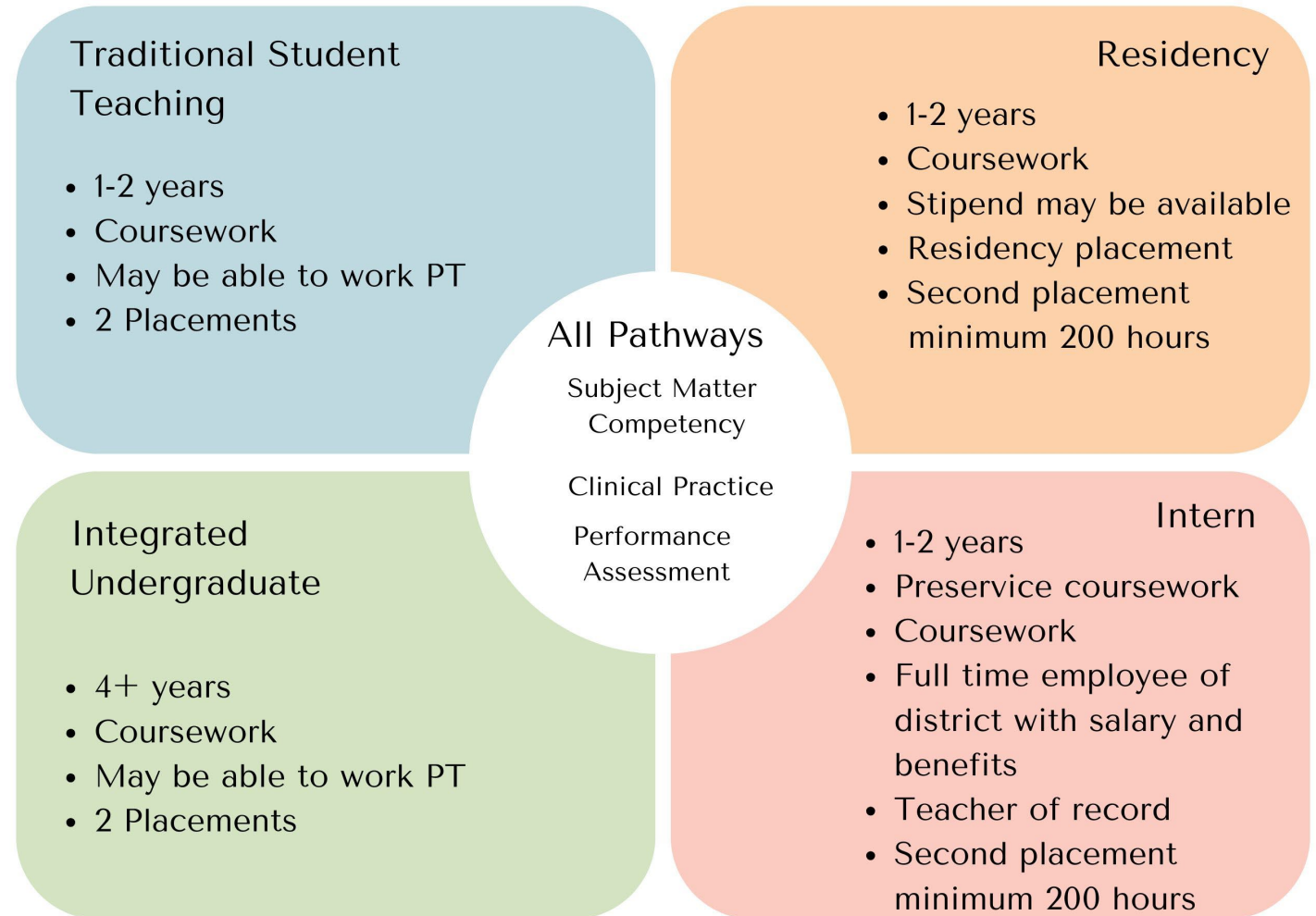


Out-of-state, out-of-country credentials

- There is no direct out-of-state or out-of-country application route.
- Educators with a comparable credentials must first apply for the Multiple Subject credential, earn an English Learner Authorization (if not included at initial application time), and meet the subject matter competence requirement to add the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction credential to the existing Multiple Subjects Teaching credential.



Pathways to the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential



PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential Programs Institutions and Pathways

San Jose State University

Post-Baccalaureate Traditional Student Teaching and Residency
Intern

Fresno State University

Post-Baccalaureate Traditional Student Teaching and Residency

Riverside County Office of Education

Intern

San Diego County Office of Education

Intern

Vanguard University

Post-Baccalaureate Traditional Student Teaching
Integrated Undergraduate Pathway

California State University Dominguez Hills

Post-Baccalaureate Traditional Student Teaching
Intern

Biola University

Post-Baccalaureate Traditional Student Teaching
Integrated Undergraduate

San Francisco State University

Post-Baccalaureate Traditional Student Teaching
Integrated Undergraduate
Intern

California State University Long Beach

Post-Baccalaureate Traditional Student Teaching
Biliteracy Authorization in Spanish or Asian (Optional)

California State University Stanislaus

Post-Baccalaureate Traditional Student Teaching
Intern

Placer County Office of Education

Intern



Approved Programs

- ☒ Educator Preparation Program
☐ Subject Matter Preparation Program

Select Type of Preparation

PK-3 Teaching ▼

☐ (All)
☐ Clear Teaching Credentials
☐ Designated Subjects Teaching
☐ Elementary Teaching
☒ PK-3 Teaching
☐ Secondary Teaching
☐ Services Credentials
☐ Special Education Added Authorizations
☐ Special Education Teaching
☐ Teaching Specialists and Authorizations

Cancel Apply

List of Institutions

-  Biola University
 California State University, Dominguez Hills
 California State University, Fresno
 California State University, Long Beach
 California State University, Stanislaus
 Placer County Office of Education
 Riverside County Office of Education
 San Diego County Office of Education
 San Francisco State University
 San Jose State University
 Vanguard University

Approved Prep Programs for PK3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/reports/data/approved-institutions-and-programs>

PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential Resources



Commission Resources

[PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential page](#)

Institution of Higher Education Resources

[PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Handbook](#)

[PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential FAQs](#)

Candidate Resources

[California TK Workforce Requirements and Educator Pathways](#)

[PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential FAQs](#)

[Roadmap to Teaching](#)

[Approved Institutions and Programs](#)

[Subscribe to the PSD News](#)

Program Resources



Contact the IPR Team

IPR@ctc.ca.gov

IPR Office hours

[First Wednesdays](#): 11am – 12pm

[Third Wednesdays](#): 11am – 12pm

Contact the Credentials Team

careerguidance@ctc.ca.gov

[Connect with a Career Counselor](#)

[Credential Quick Facts Page](#)

[Pathways to Credentialing](#)

[Program Pathways Dashboard](#)

[CTC and Me Podcast](#)

ECE Resources



Child Development Permit

[Child Development Permits Webpage](#)

[Early Childhood Education Page](#)

[CD Training Consortium Stipend Program](#)

[Subscribe to the ECE News](#)

[Subscribe to the PSD News](#)

**ECE Office Cafe
October 21, 12-1pm**

[Registration Link](#)

**ECE Community Circle
October 6, 1:00-2:30 pm**

[Registration Link](#)

Contact the ECE Team

ECE@ctc.ca.gov



Thank you!