

Division VIII of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations
Proposed Amendments and Additions to Title 5 of the California Code of
Regulations Pertaining to Requirements and Authorization for the Adapted
Physical Education Added Authorization

Final Statement of Reasons

Update

80046.1 (a)(2): While the incorporation by reference of the Education Specialist Teaching and Other Related Services Credentials Program Standards (rev. 3/11) is being repealed within this section and is being replaced with the Adapted Physical Education Program Standards (new. 01/2013), it will continue to be incorporated by reference in other regulation sections found in Title 5.

Additionally, it was determined that it would be cumbersome and impractical to publish within the California Code of Regulations the entire Adapted Physical Education Program Standards (new 01/2013) as they are six pages in length. A copy of the Adapted Physical Education Program Standards is and has been available on the Commission on Teacher Credentialing website and is also made available upon request by directly contacting the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Problem Statement

There is no change to the public problem information since the original submission of the Initial Statement of Reasons.

Statement of Purpose

There is no change to the original purpose of the proposed action since the original submission of the Initial Statement of Reasons.

Necessity for Proposed Regulations

This rulemaking action proposes updates to the adopted language in section 80046 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) related to Adapted Physical education Added Authorization and section 80692 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) related to Cost Recovery fees.

Since 2011 the title of Adapted Physical Education Added Authorization has become a concern amongst programs. The Commission has received numerous requests to change the authorization back to a specialist credential in order to better reflect the scope of preparation required and services delivered by APE candidates. A large number of individuals in the field argue that the title of Specialist Credential better represents the academic preparation and educational experiences APE candidates have before they can teach in public schools. When compared to other Added Authorization programs (e.g., Autism Spectrum Disorders, Deafblind, Emotional Disturbance, etc.), the Adapted Physical Education Added Authorization requires greater preparation and has a broader authorization than the other added authorizations.

Revising the title of the APEAA back to the APE specialist credential will better reflect the specialized training required for APE teachers to serve an array of students with disabilities. It will also result in better alignment with federal policies and allow programs to seek additional funding opportunities and feasibly help to increase the number of APE teachers credentialed in California. These proposed regulations do not propose to change any of the requirements, including the requirement for individuals to earn a base credential as a prerequisite to earning this specialist credential.

Revise CCR, § 80046.1. Requirements and Authorization for the Adapted Physical Education Added Authorization. Proposed revisions to California Coded Section 80046.1 will change the term Adapted Physical Education Added Authorization (APEAA) back to Adapted Physical Education Specialist Credential (APESC). This proposed revision amends the title of the APE credential without altering any of the necessary requirements. APE teachers will continue to be required to earn a Single Subject Physical Education, Education Specialist, or Multiple Subject Credential and complete all requirements of the current Adapted Physical Education preparation programs. Once approved, teachers who renew the Adapted Physical Education Added Authorization will automatically be granted the Adapted Physical Education Specialist Credential.

Revise of CCR, § 80046.1(a), §80046.1(a)(2), §80046.1(b), §80046.1(c). Amending the Adapted Physical Education Added Authorization designation back to a specialist credential addresses multiple concerns that have been expressed by the field, specifically that the added authorization is not an apt descriptor for the following reasons:

- 1) Preparation Required and Services Provided: The APEAA does not adequately reflect the preparation required and the services provided by individuals with this authorization and differs from other areas titled “added authorizations”. The original APE credential was swept into the group of special education and special service programs that were approved to be added authorizations. It is now believed that this was an error. The APEAA allows an individual to teach students with disabilities who are precluded from participating in a general education physical education program or a specially designed physical education program as determined by the local level special education assessment. As a result, the APEAA covers teachers who serve students aged birth-21 and have a range of disabilities. The APEAA is thus distinct from other added authorizations that focus on one specific disability category/area such as Autism Spectrum Disorders, Deaf-Blind, or Traumatic Brain Injury.
- 2) Academic Content for APEAA: Since the APEAA covers teachers who serve students in a variety of age ranges and disabilities, the academic content that must be covered is more wide-ranging than the other added authorizations and the number of units required is generally over 20 semester units which is higher than those of other added authorization programs.
- 3) Federal Funding Opportunities: The designation as an “added authorization” does not allow for institutions with APEAA programs to compete for federal funding opportunities. Since 2011 when APE was changed to an “added authorization,” it has become increasingly clear that institutions offering APEAA teacher preparation programs have

struggled with the effects of the revision. Of particular concern is that the term “added authorization” does not align with federal policies thus making it difficult for institutions that offer APE teacher preparation programs to compete for federal grant funding to support personnel development. For example, institutions report that they have been unable to compete for US DOE Office of Special Education Programs grants due solely to the title/designation as an “added authorization.” US Department of Education Grant 84.325K: Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities states that, “The purpose of this priority is to increase the number and improve the quality of personnel...who are fully credentialed to serve children who have high-intensity needs.” Reference to fully credentialed personnel is found throughout the grant summary. Additionally, “The Department will fund high-quality projects that prepare personnel in adapted physical education at the bachelor’s degree, certification, master’s degree, or educational specialist levels.” Due to the current categorization of added authorization, California’s APE program candidates would need to be pursuing a Master’s degree or a Physical Education credential to be eligible for federal funding, thus eliminating access for the majority of candidates who obtain the authorization after completing a Preliminary credential program.

Update of CCR 80046.1(a)(2). The *Education Specialist Teaching and Other Related Services Credentials Program Standards (rev.3/11)* that is currently incorporated by reference in this provision will be repealed and replaced by the *Adapted Physical Education Program Standards (new 01/2013)* that can be found on the Commission website.

Update of CCR, § 80692 (a)(1)(D)(2). The revision is to update the term Adapted Physical Education Added Authorization to Adapted Physical Education Specialist Credential. It is currently in the Initial Program Review category of cost recovery fees for other professional preparation programs leading to added authorizations which there is a \$1,000 flat fee assessed. Updating the term to a Specialist Credential will require the newly titled Adapted Physical Education Specialist Credential to be moved to the cost recovery fee category for initial program review of specialist credential programs to be consistent with the arguments made in this item that the preparation and services provided by this credential is more akin to those of a Specialist credential. This category assesses a \$1500 flat fee for professional preparation programs that lead to specialist credentials. This addition is being submitted to the Department of Finance for approval.

Pursuant to the state process for promulgating regulations, the Commission opened a 45-day public comment period on July 22, 2025 regarding these proposed regulations. The 45 days closed on September 15, 2025.

One comment in favor of the public announcement and no comments opposed to the public announcement was received during the 45-day comment period.

Written Responses Representing Organizations in Support: One
Written Responses Representing Individuals in Support: None

Written Responses Representing Organizations in Opposition: None

Written Responses Representing Individuals in Opposition: None

Total: 1 responses in support

Total: 0 responses in opposition

Grand Total of Responses: 1

Consideration of Alternatives

Since the original rulemaking was initiated, no alternative considered by the agency would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the adopted regulation, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

Mandated Costs

These proposed regulations will not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts.