



Credential Information Alert

DATE:

March 29, 2024

NUMBER:

24-04

SUBJECT: PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential Requirements

Summary:

The purpose of this Credential Information Alert (CIA) is to provide information related to the regulations and requirements for the PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist credential. The additions and amendments to Title 5 California Code of Regulations (CCR) related to the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential were approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and are effective as of April 1, 2024.

Key Provisions:

The PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential is intended to meet the unprecedented need for qualified ECE teachers who have the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide developmentally appropriate learning for all young children. It authorizes holders to teach all subjects in a self-contained general education classroom setting and to team teach or regroup students across classrooms, in preschool through grade three.

The approved regulations provide the PK-3 ECE program standards and credential requirements as well as a bridge and accelerated pathway for current Multiple Subject Credential holders and Child Development Teacher Permit holders with a bachelor's degree to earn the PK-3 ECE credential. The chart below provides the credential codes and statements that are associated with the new credential and can be seen through the Commission's online look-up system for educators that earn the credential.

AUTHORIZATION TITLE	DOCUMENT CODE	TERMS	AUTHORIZATION CODE
PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential	PK3	IN, P5, CL	PK3 ELAP

The PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential can be issued as an Intern, Preliminary, or Clear document type. It is issued with two authorizations, the credential authorization (PK3), and an English Learner authorization (ELAP). The English Learner authorization aligns with the limited EL authorizations issued on the Single Subject Teaching Credential (ELAS), Multiple Subject Teaching Credential (ELAM), and Education Specialist Teaching Credential (ELAE). The holder is authorized to provide Designated and Integrated English Language Development (ELD) services but is not authorized to teach Departmentalized ELD. The full text of both authorization statements may be found in Appendix A.

In addition to the new document codes provided above, District Intern credentialing codes have been updated to accommodate the addition of this credential. PK-3 District Intern credentials will be issued with the Term “PK” and will receive a different authorization code (R10C), and the same English Learner authorization code as the full credential.

AUTHORIZATION TITLE	DOCUMENT CODE	TERM	AUTHORIZATION CODE
District Intern	TC10	PK	R10C ELAP

Summary of Credential Requirements

This credential will require the applicant to complete all of the following requirements to obtain the five-year preliminary credential:

1. Possession of a bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
2. Completion of one of the following subject matter requirements:
 - a) Possession of a baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with a degree major in one of the following degree majors:
 - Child Development;
 - Child and Adolescent Development;
 - Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies.
 - Child and Family Studies;
 - Early Childhood Education;
 - Early Childhood Studies;
 - Family Science;
 - Human Development; or
 - Human Development and Family Science.
 - b) 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.

3. Completion of a Commission approved PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential preparation program.
4. Passage of a Commission approved Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA).
5. Passage of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) examination or a Commission approved literacy assessment aligned with the requirements of Education Code section 44320.3
6. Obtain a formal recommendation for the credential by the program sponsor.

Individuals who complete a teacher preparation program and receive a five-year preliminary credential must earn a clear credential by completing a Commission-approved teaching induction program. The Induction Program Sponsor will submit a recommendation for the clear credential upon completion.

Teachers who are certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standard with the early childhood generalist certificate and wish to earn a PK-3 Early Childhood Specialist Credential will earn a clear credential upon completion of all requirements and are not required to hold the preliminary document first. Program sponsors who wish to recommend an individual directly for the clear must submit such recommendations with a paper application as these cannot be done through CTC Online.

Pathway for Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Holders

Existing Multiple Subject Teaching Credential holders will be able to apply directly to the Commission for the PK-3 Early Childhood Specialist credential. These educators will only need to verify that they have met the subject matter competence for the PK-3 Early Childhood Specialist credential as listed below:

1. Completion of one of the following subject matter requirements:
 - a) Possession of a baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with a degree major in 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, or Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies.
 - b) 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.

When applying for the PK-3 Early Childhood Specialist credential, Multiple Subject Teaching Credential holders are required to submit a paper application, standard processing fee, and official transcripts demonstrating completion of the subject matter requirement. All valid Multiple Subject Teaching Credential holders must hold the appropriate English Learner Authorization. This option will be available as of April 1, 2024.

Educators Prepared in Other States and Countries

Statute and regulations do not allow for individuals prepared in another state or country to apply for the PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Credential at this time. Such educators with a comparable credential should continue to apply for the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential through [established pathways](#). Upon issuance of the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential based on out-of-state or outside the United States preparation, an individual that wishes to earn the PK-3 credential may apply as directed above via the pathway for Multiple Subject Teaching Credential holders.

Sources:

Title 5 of the California Codes of Regulations §80067

Resources:

PK-3 Leaflet:

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/pk-3-early-childhood-credential-requirements-for-teachers-prepared-in-california-cl-912>

Coded Correspondence:

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/commission/coded/2024/coded-24-03.pdf>

CIA (Assignments):

https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/credentials/alerts/2024_alerts/cia-24-05.pdf

CL-561:

[Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Requirements for Individuals Prepared Out-of-State](#)

References:

Coded Correspondence 23-02

[Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential](#)

Coded Correspondence 23-03

[Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential](#)

Coded Correspondence 23-06

[Supplemental Justification and Modifications for Proposed Amendments to California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Pertaining to PK-3 Early Childhood Education Instruction Specialist Credential](#)

Coded Correspondence 23-09

[Supplemental Justification and Modifications for Proposed Amendments to California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Pertaining to PK-3 Early Childhood Education Instruction Specialist Credential](#)

Important Dates:

Effective April 1, 2024.

Contact Information:

Questions can be directed to the Commission's Information Services Unit at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.

Appendix A: Authorization Statements

AUTHORIZATIONS	AUTHORIZATION DESCRIPTION
PK3	<i>This credential authorizes the holder to teach all subjects in a self-contained general education classroom setting and, as a self-contained classroom teacher, to team teach or to regroup students across classrooms, in preschool through grade three.</i>
ELAP	<i>The following instructional services may be provided to English learners in the settings and content area(s) specified on this document: (1) English language development defined as instruction designed specifically for limited-English-proficient students to develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English; and specially designed content instruction delivered in English defined as instruction in a subject area, delivered in English, that is specially designed to meet the needs of limited-English-proficient students. This English learner authorization also covers classes taught on the basis of other valid, non-emergency credentials or permits held within the settings or content/specialty area(s) listed at the grade or age levels authorized.</i>
R10C	<i>This credential authorizes the holder to teach all subjects in a self-contained general education classroom setting and, as a self-contained classroom teacher, to team teach or to regroup students across classrooms, in preschool through grade three.</i>