

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Title 5. Education, Division 8
Commission on Teacher Credentialing
Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to
Requirements to Determine Eligibility of Institutions Seeking to Offer
Educator Preparation Programs

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) proposes to take the regulatory action described below after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action. A copy of the proposed regulations is included with the new proposed text shown in underline.

The Commission has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the Commission will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or their authorized representative, no later than 15 days before the close of the comment period.

Summary of the Effect of the Proposed Action

This proposal adds Section 80700 to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.

California Education Code section 44372(c) gives the Commission the authority to accredit institutions that seek to offer programs that lead to a credential to serve as an educator in California public schools. Among other responsibilities, Education Code section 44372(c) sets forth the Commission's responsibility to rule on the eligibility of applicant institutions. The addition of Section 80700 to Title 5 will set forth the requirements for determining eligibility for institutions that have not previously been approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to operate educator preparation licensure programs in California.

Written Comment Period

Any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, may submit written comments by fax, through the mail, or by email relevant to the proposed action. The written comment period closes on June 8, 2026. Comments must be received by that time or may be submitted at the public hearing, should one be requested. Interested parties may fax their response to (916) 327-3165; write to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Attn: Lynette Roby, Commission on Teacher Credentialing, 651 Bannon Street, Suite 601, Sacramento, CA 95811; by phone at (916) 324-3668 or submit an email to Lynette.Roby@ctc.ca.gov. Alternatively contact Miranda Gutierrez at (916) 445-0928 or by email at mgutierrez@ctc.ca.gov. Any written comments received by the closing of the public comment period will be reproduced by the Commission's staff for each member of the Commission as a courtesy to the person submitting the comments and will be included in the written agenda prepared for and presented to the full Commission.

Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to Requirements to Determine Eligibility of Institutions Seeking to Offer Educator Preparation Programs

Authority

Education Code Section 44372(c) establishes authority for the Commission to rule on the eligibility of an applicant for accreditation when the applying institution has not previously prepared educators for state certification in California.

Reference

The authority cited above is pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 44227.

Information Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Summary of Existing Laws and Effect of the Proposed Action

As stated above, these regulations are new and based on Education Code 44372(c) which states that one of the duties of the Commission shall be to “Rule on the eligibility of an applicant for accreditation when the applying institution has not previously prepared educators for state certification in California, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 44227.”

Anticipated Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

The proposed regulations provide clarity for education institutions seeking approval to offer new educator preparation program(s). The adoption of the proposed regulations will ensure that such institutions will have adhered to Commission eligibility requirements thus ensuring consistency and quality in the process of approving institutions to offer educator licensure programs in California.

Determination of Inconsistency/Incompatibility with Existing State Regulations

The Commission has determined that the proposed regulation amendments are not inconsistent or incompatible with existing regulations. After conducting a review for any regulations that would relate to or affect this area, the Commission has concluded that these are the only regulations that concern institutional eligibility to offer educator preparation programs in California.

Disclosures Regarding the Proposed Actions/Fiscal Impact

The Commission has made the following initial determinations.

Mandate on local agencies or school districts:

These proposed regulations will not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts that must be reimbursed in accordance with Part 7 (commencing with section 17500) of the Government Code. Local education agencies may choose to sponsor educator preparation programs utilizing the proposed regulations; however, no mandate exists requiring local agencies or school districts to have educator preparation programs and, therefore, no reimbursement in accordance with Part 7 (commencing with section 17500) of the Government Code is required.

Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to Requirements to Determine Eligibility of Institutions Seeking to Offer Educator Preparation Programs

Fiscal Impact

Costs to any local agency or school districts requiring reimbursement pursuant to Government Code section 17500 et seq.

These proposed regulations will not impose a cost to local agencies or school districts requiring reimbursement in accordance with Part 7 (commencing with section 17500) of the Government Code as sponsoring an educator preparation program which is aligned to the proposed regulations is not required by law.

5 CCR Section 80692 authorizes the Commission to charge a flat fee of \$2,000 to any institution seeking to be granted initial institutional approval of which includes the determination of eligibility. These fees would be unaffected by this regulatory package.

Additionally, potential educator candidates enter into approved credentialing programs of their own volition and incur the tuition assessed by the approved education institution of their choice.

Cost or savings to any state agency.

None. This will not create a cost or savings to any state agency. Fees are assessed on approved educator preparation institutions or institutions seeking approval to offer an educator preparation program.

Other non-discretionary costs or savings imposed upon local agencies.

None. Sponsoring an educator preparation program is not required by law.

Cost or savings in federal funding to the state.

None. Sponsoring an educator preparation program is not required by law and would not impact federal funding to the state.

Significant effect on housing costs

No effect on housing costs. These regulations only pertain to institutions seeking approval to offer an educator preparation program in California.

Significant Statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states

The Commission has concluded there is no significant adverse impact on business. The proposed amendments pertain to education institutions seeking eligibility to offer educator credentialing programs.

Statement of the Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.3(b), the Commission has made the following assessments regarding the proposed regulations:

Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to Requirements to Determine Eligibility of Institutions Seeking to Offer Educator Preparation Programs

Creation or Elimination of Jobs within California

These amendments will not create or eliminate jobs in California. The proposed amendments pertain to education institutions seeking to offer educator credentialing programs.

Creation of New Businesses within California

These amendments will not create new businesses in California. The proposed amendments pertain to education institutions seeking to offer educator credentialing programs.

Elimination of Existing Business within California

These amendments will not eliminate existing businesses in California. The proposed amendments pertain to education institutions seeking to offer educator credentialing programs.

Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business within the State of California

These amendments will not cause the expansion or elimination of existing businesses in California.

The proposed amendments pertain to education institutions seeking eligibility to offer educator credentialing programs.

Benefits of the Regulations to the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment

The Commission anticipates that the proposed amendments will continue to benefit the health and welfare of California residents by providing clarity and consistency for education institutions seeking eligibility to offer educator preparation programs.

The Commission does not anticipate that these regulations will result in a direct benefit to worker safety or the state's environment.

Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Small Business Determination

The proposed regulations will not affect small business. The proposed regulations apply only to educational institutions electing to offer Commission-approved and accredited educator preparation programs. Educational institutions are California State Universities, Universities of California, private four-year colleges and universities, or local education agencies, none of which meet the definition for small business as defined in Government Code 11342.610. The vast majority of Commission approved program sponsors are nonprofit educational institutions. Very few institutions of higher education approved by the Commission are for-profit businesses. Because becoming an approved institution seeking to offer an educator preparation program is voluntary, any institution must evaluate whether they have sufficient resources to offer a high-

Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to Requirements to Determine Eligibility of Institutions Seeking to Offer Educator Preparation Programs

quality preparation program in accordance with the state adopted standards, state statute, and regulations.

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law. The Commission invites interested persons to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulations during the written comment period or at the public hearing.

Contact Persons

Inquiries concerning the proposed action may be directed to:

Lynette Roby
Commission on Teacher Credentialing
651 Bannon St., Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 324-3668
Lynette.Roby@ctc.ca.gov

The backup for these inquiries is:

Miranda Gutierrez
Commission on Teacher Credentialing
651 Bannon St., Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 445-0928
mgutierrez@ctc.ca.gov

Availability of Statement of Reasons, Text of Proposed Regulations, and Rulemaking File

The Commission will make the entire rulemaking file available for inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at the Commission office at the above address. As of the date this notice is published in the Notice of Register, the rulemaking file consists of the Notice of Proposed Action, the proposed text of regulations, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and an Economic and Fiscal Impact Statement STD 399. The rulemaking file for this regulatory action, which contains those items mentioned above, and all information on which the proposal is based (i.e. rulemaking file) is available to the public upon request directed to the department's contact person. Please direct requests to inspect or copy the rulemaking file to the contact person listed above, Lynette Roby or Miranda Gutierrez.

Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to Requirements to Determine Eligibility of Institutions Seeking to Offer Educator Preparation Programs

Availability of Changed or Modified Text

After considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Commission may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If the Commission makes modifications that are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text (with the changes clearly indicated) available to the public for at least 15 days before adopting the regulations as revised. Please direct requests for copies of any modified regulations to the contact person listed above. If substantive modifications are made, the Commission will accept written comments on the modified regulations for the duration of the period of public availability.

Availability of Final Statement of Reasons

Upon its completion, the Commission will make copies of the Final Statement of Reasons available. Please direct requests for copies to the contact person listed above.

Availability of Documents on the Internet

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulations with modifications highlighted, as well as the Final Statement of Reasons, when completed, and modified text and notices thereof, if any, may be accessed via the Commission's website at <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/notices/rulemaking/>.

TITLE 5. EDUCATION
DIVISION 8. COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING
CHAPTER 5. Approved Programs
ARTICLE 4. Initial Institutional and Program Approval

Section 80700. Initial Institutional Approval Eligibility Requirements

- (a) Prerequisite - Educational institutions not currently approved by the Commission for Initial Institutional Approval (IIA) seeking to offer educator preparation programs must complete the following application requirements. Pursuant to Education Code 44372 (c), the Commission shall determine if an institution has met all eligibility requirements.
- (1) For institutions of higher education: The institution must be accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges: Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) or another of the following regional accrediting associations: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)/Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE); Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); Higher Learning Commission (HLC); New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE); Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC).
- (2) For public schools, school districts, or county offices of education: The institution must be a public school, school district or county office of education and have received approval of sponsorship from the agency's governing board, documented by governing board minutes.
- (b) Prior to acceptance of an application for Initial Institutional Approval (IIA), institutional personnel must attend an initial consultation meeting with Commission staff.
- (c) Eligibility Requirements: To be considered for Initial Institutional Approval, prospective institutions must meet all eligibility criteria listed below.
- (1) Criterion 1: Responsibility and Authority
- (A) An institution must identify the lines of authority and responsibility for all prospective educator preparation programs within the institution.
- (B) An institution must provide assurance in writing to the Commission that only the person(s) employed by the program sponsor will recommend individuals to the Commission for a credential or authorization.
- (2) Criterion 2: Lawful Practices
- (A) A program of professional preparation must be proposed and operated by an entity that makes all personnel decisions regarding employment, retention, or promotion of employees without unlawful discrimination.
- (B) The entity must make all decisions regarding the admission, retention, and graduation of students without unlawful discrimination.
- (3) Criterion 3: Commission Assurances and Compliance
- (A) The institution must provide an assurance in writing for each of the following:

Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to Requirements to Determine Eligibility of Institutions Seeking to Offer Educator Preparation Programs

1. The institution shall comply with all relevant statutory, regulatory, and Commission requirements for program(s) the institution would like to propose.
 2. All Commission-required reports including, but not limited to, data reports and accreditation documents, will be submitted by the Commission-approved entity for all educator preparation programs.
 3. The institution will cooperate in an evaluation of the program by an external team or monitoring of the program by one or more Commission staff members.
 4. The institution will participate fully in the Commission's accreditation system and adhere to submission timelines.
 5. Once a candidate is accepted and enrolled in an educator preparation program, the institution must offer the approved program until the candidate completes the program or is admitted to another Commission approved program.
- (4) Criterion 4: Requests for Data
- (A) An institution must identify a qualified officer responsible for reporting and responding to all data requests from the Commission.
- (5) Criterion 5: Grievance Process
- (A) An institution must have a clearly defined process identified for handling all candidate grievances in a fair and timely manner.
 - (B) An institution must make its grievance process readily accessible for all applicants and candidates.
- (6) Criterion 6: Communication and Information
- (A) An institution must provide a plan to the Commission for communicating and informing the public about the institution and the educator preparation programs it intends to offer.
 - (B) The institution must create and maintain a secure, easily accessible website that includes information about the institution and all approved educator preparation programs.
 - (C) The institution must provide assurance in writing to the Commission that it will make public information about all of its Commission approved educator preparation programs, the mission of the institution, its governance and administration, and its admission procedures.
- (7) Criterion 7: Student Records Management, Access, and Security
- (A) An institution must demonstrate that it will maintain and retain candidate records and provide verification that:
 1. Candidates have access to and are provided with transcripts and/or other documents to verify academic units and program completion.
 2. Candidate records, including paper or electronic versions, are maintained at the main institutional site or at a central location.
 3. Candidate records are kept in a secure manner either in locked rooms or depositories or on a secure server located in a room not accessible by the public.
- (8) Criterion 8: Disclosure

Proposed Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to Requirements to Determine Eligibility of Institutions Seeking to Offer Educator Preparation Programs

(A) Institutions must disclose information regarding:

1. Delivery model(s) which include online, in person, or hybrid instruction for all programs it will propose.
2. All locations of proposed educator preparation programs including satellite campuses.
3. All outside organizations, including individuals not formally employed by the institution seeking IIA, who will be providing any direct educational service, including the type of service that will be provided, as part of the proposed program(s).

(9) Criterion 9: Veracity in all Claims and Documentation Submitted

(A) The institutional leadership must provide an assurance signed by institutional leadership attesting to the veracity of all statements and documentation submitted to the Commission.

(B) Evidence of a lack of veracity is cause for denial of Initial Institutional Approval.

(10) Criterion 10: Mission and Vision

(A) The institution and education leadership must provide a mission and vision for educator preparation that reflects commitment to adopted state PK-12 student academic standards and frameworks adopted by the California State Board of Education.

(11) Criterion 11: History of Prior Experience and Effectiveness in Educator Preparation

(A) Institutions seeking IIA must disclose:

1. Its experience in sponsoring one or more educator preparation programs leading to licensure.
2. Its participation as a partner in an educator preparation program and/or program focused on PK-12 public education.

(B) The Commission may consider any additional public information regarding the history of prior experience and effectiveness of the institution and its programs in educator preparation.

(12) Criterion 12: Capacity and Resources

(A) An institution must submit to the Commission a capacity and resources plan that provides information about how it will sustain the educator preparation program(s) during a two to four-year provisional period.

Credits

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 44372(c), Education Code.