



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

DATE:

July 16, 2026

NUMBER:

PSA 26-03

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATIONS ON ONE TPA RULE FOR CANDIDATES COMPLETING MULTIPLE CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Summary:

This Program Sponsor Alert provides clarification on which cycles/tasks of a Commission-approved teaching performance assessment (TPA) a candidate must pass in order to be recommended for a preliminary teaching credential should they seek to earn multiple credentials. Candidates pursuing more than one credential simultaneously may complete each TPA cycle/task of the same TPA model in a different credential area; candidates who shift credential area after completing a cycle/task do not have to repeat that cycle/task for their new credential area. However, all candidates pursuing a Multiple Subject, PK-3 Early Childhood Specialist Instruction, or Education Specialist (Mild to Moderate Support Needs, Extensive Support Needs, Early Childhood Special Education, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, or Visual Impairment) credential **must meet the literacy requirement by successfully passing a Literacy Performance Assessment or taking and passing the Foundations of Reading exam.**

Key Provisions:

Currently, three teaching performance assessment models have been approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) for operational use in California: the CalTPA and Education Specialist CalTPA (EdSp CalTPA), edTPA, and the Fresno Assessment of Student Teachers (FAST). Additionally, edTPA Essentials has been approved for field testing during the 2026-2027 academic year.

CalTPA, EdSp CalTPA, FAST, and edTPA Essentials each include two cycles that candidates must take and pass to fulfill the TPA requirement:

CalTPA and EdSp CalTPA: Math Performance Assessment/Cycle 1 + Literacy Performance Assessment/Cycle 2

FAST: Site Visitation Project + Teaching Sample Project

edTPA Essentials: Task 1 + Task 2

edTPA has just one cycle that candidates complete.

The Commission's one-TPA policy stipulates that candidates must only pass one TPA to be recommended for a credential and do not need to pass additional TPAs for any additional credentials. This means that if a candidate decides to pursue a credential in a second area, they do not need to take a second TPA. For this rule to apply, a candidate must pass both cycles of the chosen model.

If a candidate pursues preliminary credentials in two areas simultaneously (e.g. Multiple Subject and Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate Support Needs), the candidate may complete one cycle of the TPA in one credential area and the other cycle in the second credential area. In these situations, the candidate should complete each cycle in the credential area that best corresponds with their clinical practice placement. For example, if the candidate pursuing both a Multiple Subject and an Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate Support Needs credential completes their clinical practice in a general education setting one semester, they should complete a Multiple Subject TPA cycle that semester. If the candidate is placed in an Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate Support Needs setting for their clinical practice the next semester, they should complete an Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate Support Needs cycle that semester.

Similarly, if a candidate decides during teacher preparation to switch credential areas and has already completed one cycle in their first credential area, they do not need to complete that cycle again. For example, if a candidate begins a preparation program pursuing a Single Subject English credential and completes their first TPA cycle in Single Subject English and then decides to switch to pursue a Multiple Subject credential, the candidate does not need to complete the first TPA cycle in Multiple Subject. The candidate would only need to complete the second TPA cycle in Multiple Subject.

Importantly, if a candidate is pursuing a credential area that includes a literacy competency requirement, **the candidate must meet the literacy competency requirement regardless of whether or not they have already completed a TPA.** Candidates can meet the literacy requirement by passing the appropriate cycle of a performance assessment model that includes a literacy component, as approved by the Commission to meet the current literacy requirement pursuant to Education Code Section 44259.6. Alternatively, a candidate may pass the Foundations of Reading exam.

Although candidates may complete cycles in two different credential areas, the cycles must both be from the same TPA model (CalTPA, edTPA Essentials, or FAST). For example, a candidate may not complete one CalTPA cycle and a second edTPA Essentials cycle.

Background:

[Education Code 44320.2](#) stipulates that all candidates for a preliminary teaching credential must take a TPA and either (a) earn a passing score or (b) meet the secondary passing standard

and receive program verification of demonstrating proficiency of all required Teaching Performance Expectations in order to be recommended for a preliminary teaching credential. Following the passage of [Senate Bill 488](#) (2021), candidates pursuing a Multiple Subject, PK-3 Early Childhood Specialist Instruction, or Education Specialist (Mild to Moderate Support Needs, Extensive Support Needs, Early Childhood, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Visual Impairment) credential must meet the literacy requirement by successfully passing a Literacy Performance Assessment (LPA) or by passing the Foundations of Reading exam.

[California Code of Regulations Title 5 Section 80095](#) provides further guidance by stating that candidates shall only be required to pass one TPA and that Commission accredited educator preparation programs shall advise and assist enrolled candidates in determining the specific TPA that best aligns with their clinical practice placement.

References:

[Agenda Item 2C \(June 2026\)](#): Approval of the June 2026 Consent Calendar: Request for Approval to Field Test edTPA Essentials

[Program Sponsor Alert 25-08](#): Approval of CalTPA, edTPA, and FAST Literacy Performance Assessments and CalTPA Math Performance Assessments and Preliminary Passing Standards for 2025-26

[Program Sponsor Alert 22-14](#): Approval of Amendments to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to Teaching Performance Assessment

Contact Information:

Contact Information for the Educator Quality Branch is available at the [Contact webpage](#).