

Item 2e: Plan to Improve Options for Meeting the Subject Matter Requirements for Teaching Credentials

JULIET WAHLEITHNER, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
RESEARCH, EVALUATION, & ASSESSMENT, &

ADAM EBRAHIM, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND

- **Subject Matter Requirement (SMR)**
 - All candidates must meet SMR to demonstrate subject matter competency
- **AB 130: Created New Options**
 - Completion of degree aligned to credential area
 - Completion of coursework aligned with SMR domains
 - Combination of CSET + coursework



Proposed Actions to Expand Options

Action 1:

Expand Degree Majors

Problem:

- Current specificity of degrees poses challenges for candidates with degrees in closely related areas

Proposed Action:

- Change current statute to allow for greater flexibility in areas where candidate may hold degree



Action 1:

Process To Expand Degree Majors

Step 1: Focused Policy Review (Q1-2 2026)

1. Review current policy
2. Consider additional appropriate majors not included
3. Make recommendations for expanding acceptable degree options

Step 2: Seek Feedback from Practitioners (Q2 2026)

Step 3: Present Recommendations to Commission (Q2 2026)



Action 2:

Streamline SMR Domains

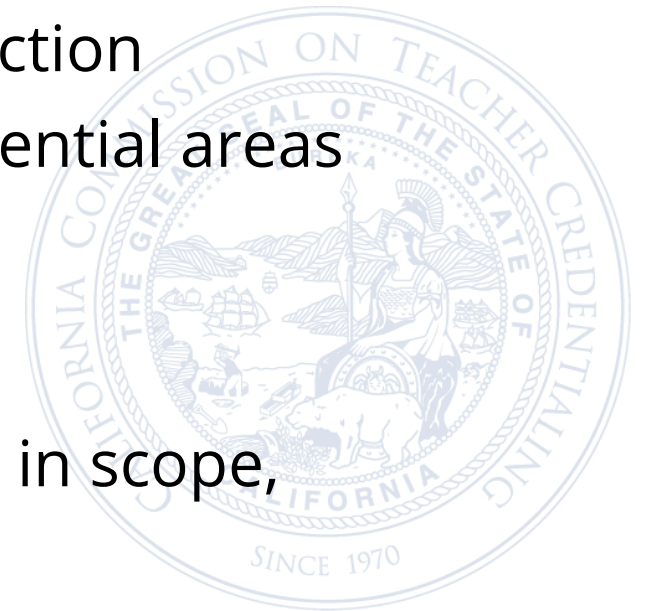
Problem:

- Current SMRS developed to support CSET construction
- Differ in scope, specificity, and format across credential areas
- Challenging for transcript review

Proposed Action:

- Simplify existing domain language for consistency in scope, specificity, and format across credential areas

** See Appendix D for example*



Action 2:

Process to Streamline SMR Domains

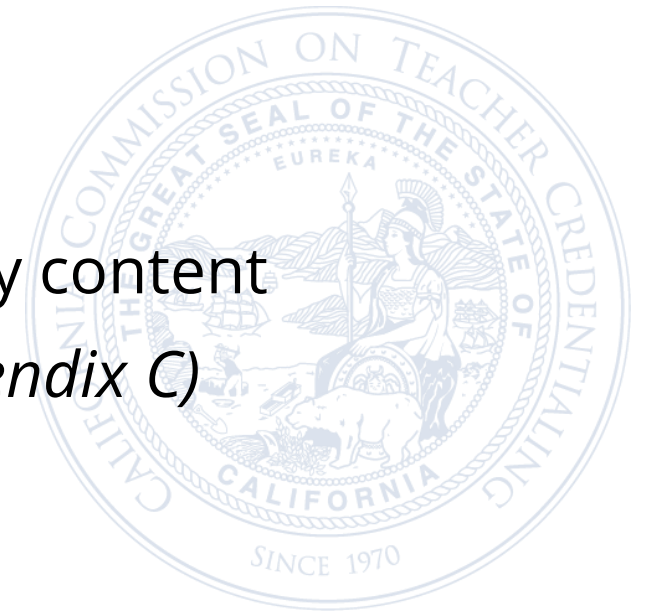
Step 1: Draft Revised Domains/Sub-Domains (Q1 2026)

1. Review existing domains and sub-domains
2. Determine key content
3. Create clear, concise statements to articulate key content

**Work will begin with high-frequency CSET areas (Appendix C)*

Step 2: Seek Feedback from Practitioners (Q2 2026)

Step 3: Present Revised Domains to Commissioners (Q3 2026)



Action 3:

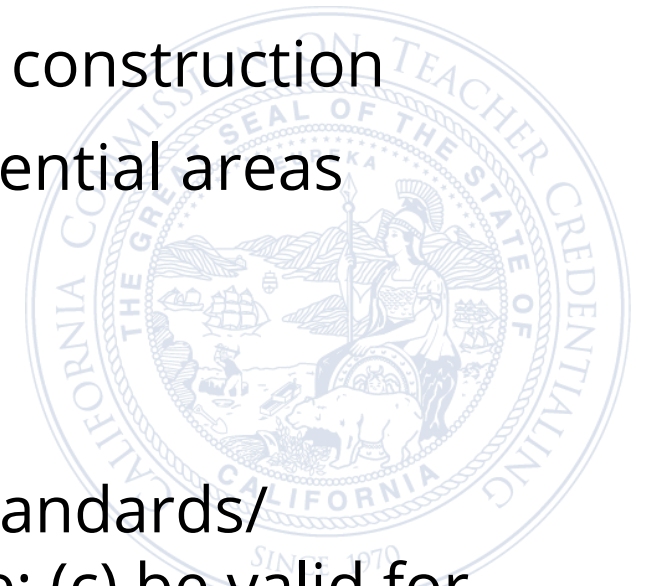
Revise SMR Structures

Problem:

- Current SMR domains developed to support CSET construction
- Differ in scope, specificity, and format across credential areas
- PK-12 Standards/Frameworks have been updated

Proposed Action:

- Revise SMRs to (a) ensure alignment with PK-12 standards/frameworks; (b) be consistent in format and scope; (c) be valid for both CSET development and transcript review



Action 3:

Process to Revise SMR Structures

Step 1: Subject Area-Specific Work Groups (Q3 2026)

1. Assemble groups of practitioners and teacher educators
2. Review existing SMRs to determine alignment with current PK-12 standards/frameworks and current classroom contexts

**Work will begin with high-frequency CSET areas (Appendix C)*

Step 2: Draft Revised SMRs for Each Credential Area (Q4 2026)

1. Based on work group feedback, draft revised SMRs

Step 3: Present Revised SMRs to Commission (Q1 2027)

Step 4: Upon Approval, Provide Guidance to Programs (Q1 2027)

Action 4:

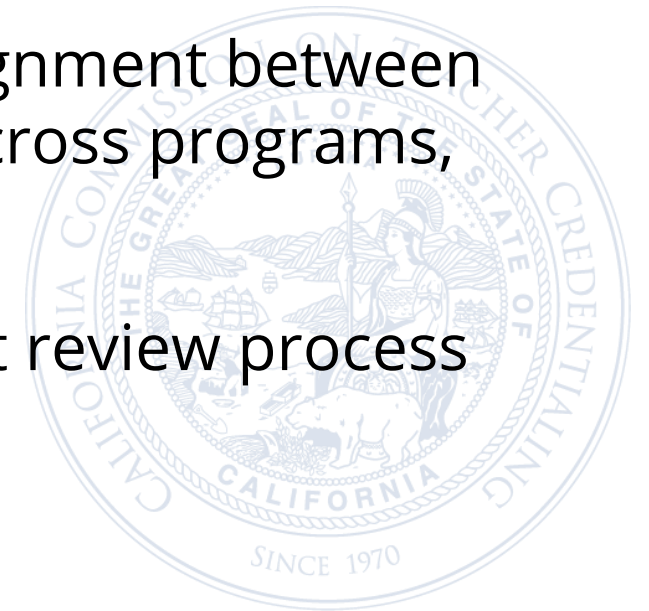
Explore Transcript Analysis Tool

Problem:

- Process of evaluating transcripts to determine alignment between coursework and domains time-intensive, varies across programs,

Proposed Action:

- Explore ways to simplify and modernize transcript review process



Action 4:

Explore Transcript Analysis Tool

Step 1: Survey Programs About Transcript Analysis (Q1 2026 - Q2 2026)

- Existing tools, systems, and procedures
- Common challenges

Step 2: Investigate Promising Practices (Q2 2026)

Step 3: Synthesize Findings & Develop Recommendations (Q2 2026)

Step 4: Present recommendations to Commission (Q2 2026)

**Actions based on recommendations will require additional resources/support*



Action 5:

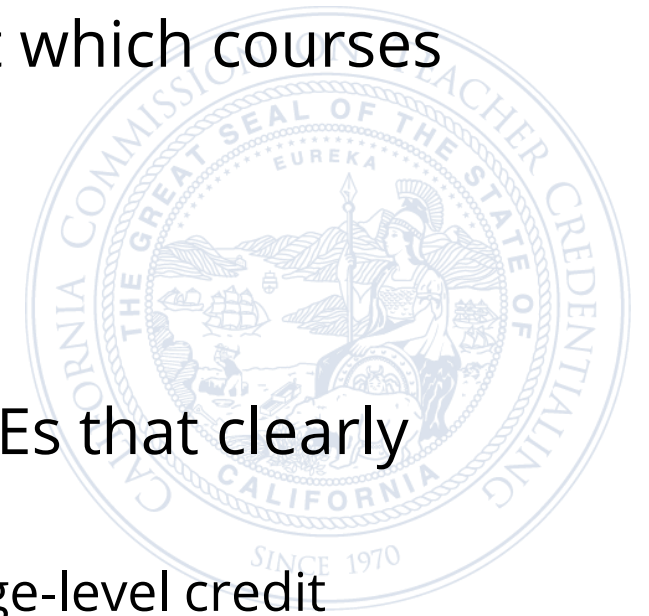
Explore Micro-Certification Feasibility

Problem:

- Limited information available to candidates about which courses align with SMR domains
- Transcript reviews not consistently available

Proposed Action:

- Explore creation of focused courses of study at IHEs that clearly align with SMR domains
 - Integrate focused subject matter preparation with college-level credit
 - Could be taken pre- or post-degree



Action 5:

Micro-Certification Exploration Process

Step 1: Collaboration with IHEs

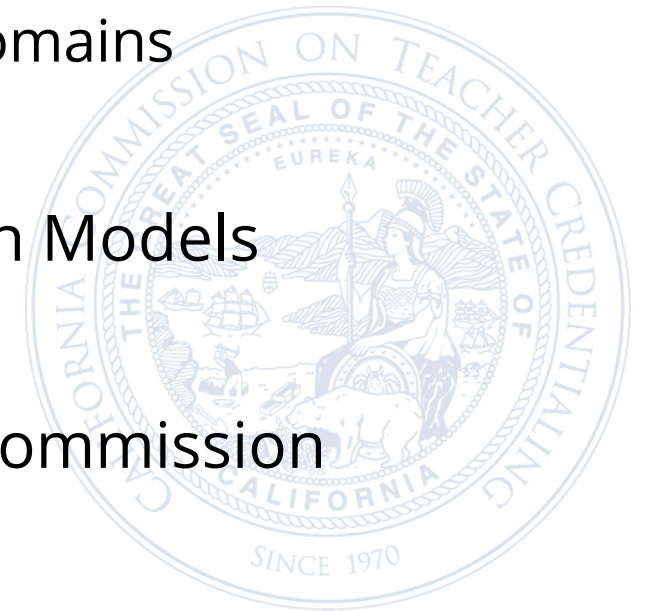
1. Explore possible course sequences that align with domains
2. Verify courses meet domains

Step 2: Develop and Refine Draft Micro-Certification Models

Step 3: Identify Pilot Institutions

Step 4: Present Models and Recommendations to Commission

Work would require funding and/or partner support



Staff Recommendations

Direct Staff to:

Action 1: Expand Degree Majors

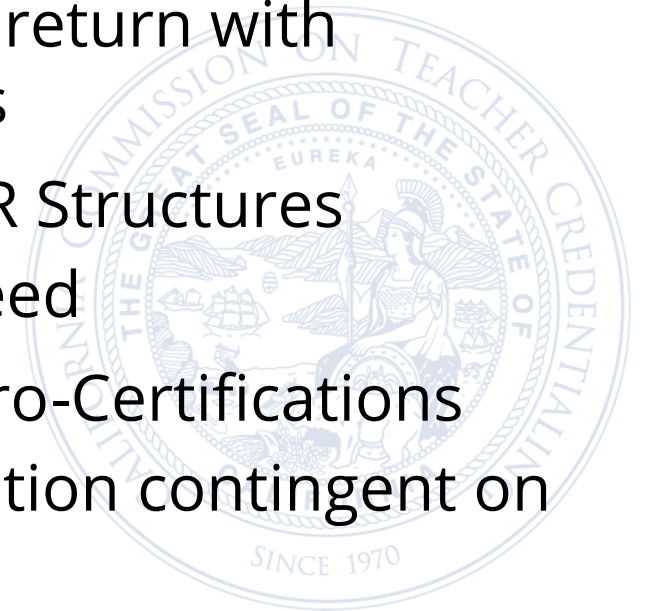
- Authorize focused policy review; direct staff to return with recommended statutory or regulatory changes

Actions 2-3: Streamline SMR Language + Revise SMR Structures

- Approve the workplan and direct staff to proceed

Actions 4-5: Explore Transcript Analysis Tools + Micro-Certifications

- Endorse exploratory scoping, with implementation contingent on funding
- Report back on cost estimates, timelines, and any proposed legislative or regulatory language to operationalize actions



Questions?

