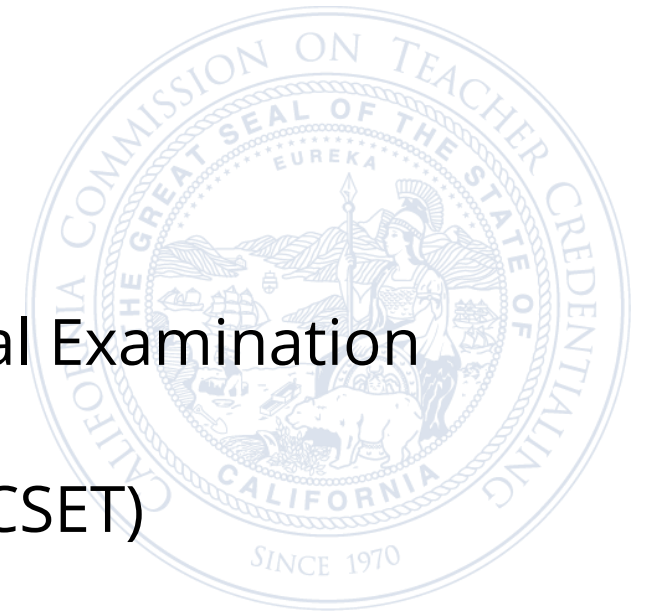


# Item 2F: Ongoing and Planned Improvements for Commission-Approved Examinations

JULIET WAHLEITHNER, DIRECTOR, & MIKE TAYLOR, CONSULTANT  
DIVISION OF RESEARCH, EVALUATION, & ASSESSMENT

# Background:

- Commission has approved five types of exams for operation:
  - Early Completion Option (ECO)
  - California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST)
  - California Teachers of English Learners (CTEL)
  - California Preliminary Administrative Credential Examination (CPACE)
  - California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET)
- Each serves distinct statutory purposes



# Recent Changes

- Statutory (AB 130) and regulatory changes have broadened ways candidates can demonstrate proficiency/readiness
- PK-12 Standards/Frameworks have been updated
- Credential Structures have evolved

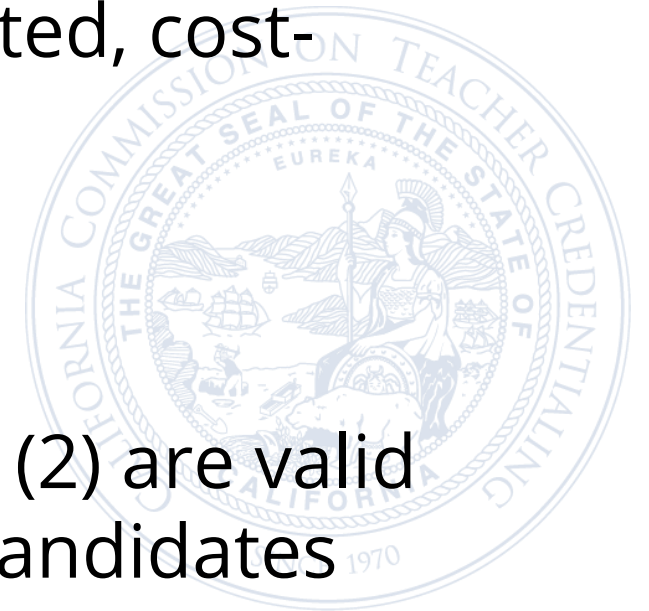


# Opportunity to Update

- Several contracts nearing end-of-term
- Can modernize current system in coordinated, cost-effective, candidate-focused way

## Goal

- Ensure exams (1) maintain high standards; (2) are valid and reliable; and (3) are cost-effective for candidates



# Plan to Update Exams

# Early Completion Option (ECO)

- Required by statute
- Offers intern candidates acceleration route to credential
- No option in place for PK3 or Education Specialist: Mild-to-Moderate Support Needs



# ECO Update Plan

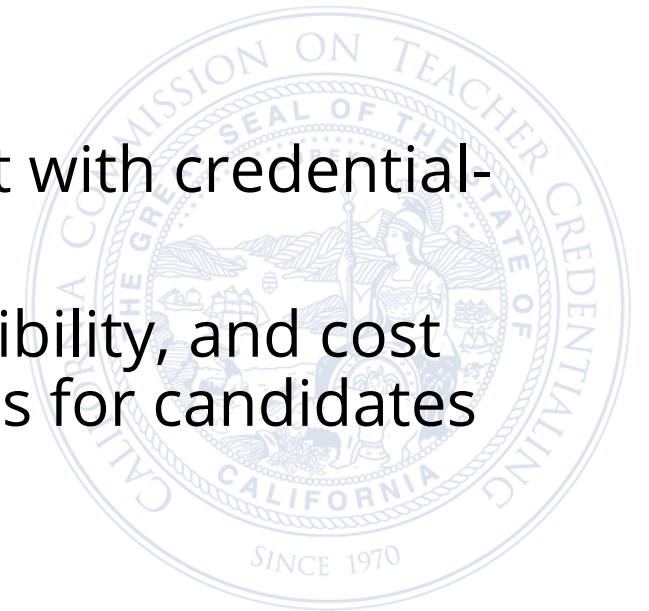
STEP 1: Review PK3 and ES TPEs to Identify Required Competencies (Q4 2025)

STEP 2: Identify Existing Exams (Q1-Q2 2026)

1. Identify and review existing exams for alignment with credential-specific TPEs
2. Consult with vendors to verify alignment, accessibility, and cost with focus on valid, reliable, and practical options for candidates

STEP 3: Select Most Appropriate Option (Q2 2026)

STEP 4: Present Proposed Contract to Commission for Consideration (Q3 2026)



# CA Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)

- Was used to measure competencies for Basic Skills Requirement
- No longer required for almost all credential candidates
- Only required for:
  - Emergency Substitute Teaching Permit for Prospective Teachers
  - Exchange Certificated Employee Credential
  - Sojourn Certificated Employee Credential
  - Designated Subjects Supervision and Coordination Credentials
- Still required in statute





# CBEST Update Plan

STEP 1: Review Content Specifications (Q4 2025)

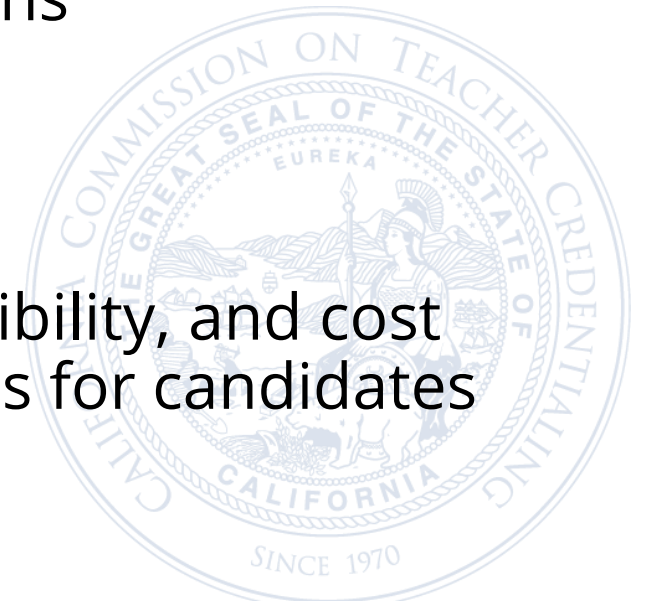
1. Engage in comparative analysis of available options

STEP 2: Identify Existing Exams (Q1-Q2 2026)

1. Explore available off-the-shelf options
2. Consult with vendors to verify alignment, accessibility, and cost with focus on valid, reliable, and practical options for candidates

STEP 3: Select Most Appropriate Option (Q2 2026)

STEP 4: Present Proposed Contract to Commission for Consideration (Q3 2026)



# CA Teachers of English Learners (CTEL)

- Provides option to earn the English Learner Authorization
- Assesses Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) for CTEL
- Required by statute



# CTEL Update Plan

STEP 1: Review Existing CTEL KSAs (Q2 2026)

1. Convene expert group to review existing KSAs
2. Make necessary revisions

STEP 2: Present Revised KSAs to Commission (Q3 2026)

STEP 3: Engage in RFI Process (Q3-4 2026)

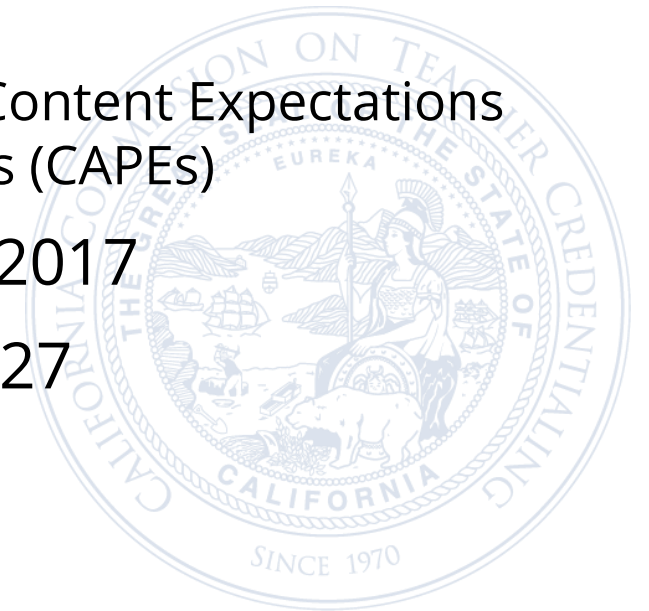
1. Issue RFI to vendors
2. Engage in technical conversations
3. Prepare recommendations

STEP 3: Present Proposed Contract to Commission for Consideration (Q1 2027)



# CA Preliminary Administrative Credential Examination (CPACE)

- Replaces a preparation program for the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential
  - Assesses candidates' competency on CA Administrator Content Expectations (CACEs) and CA Administrator Performance Expectations (CAPEs)
- Current version of CPACE has been in place since 2017
- Proposed revision of CACEs and CAPEs in 2026-2027



# CPACE Update Plan

STEP 1: Commission Adopts Revised CAPEs and CACEs (Q3 2027)

STEP 2: Engage in RFI Process (Q3-Q4 2027)

1. Issue RFI to vendors
2. Engage in technical conversations
3. Prepare recommendations

STEP 3: Present Proposed Contract to Commission for Consideration (Q4 2028)



# CA Skills for Educators Test (CSET)

- Measures the Subject Matter Requirements for each credential/authorization
- Usage is rapidly declining
  - Candidates can now meet the Subject Matter Requirement with undergraduate coursework and degrees (AB130, 2021)
- Proposed revision of SMRs in 2026
  - Work will begin with high-frequency credential areas



# CSET Update Plan

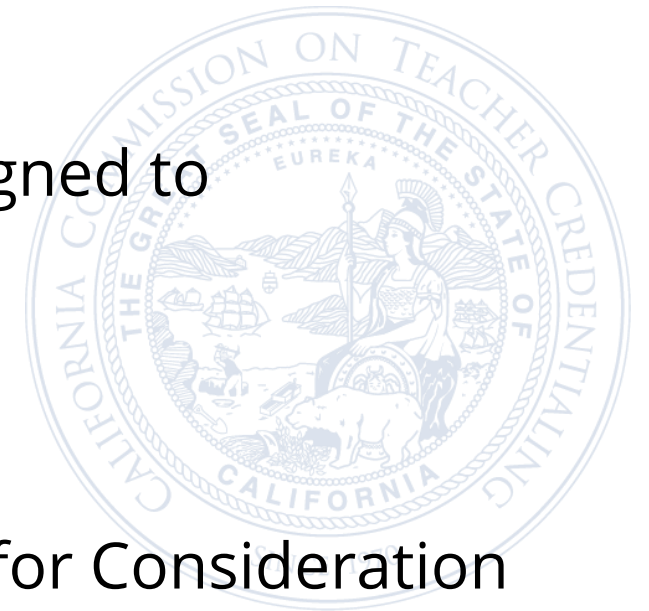
STEP 1: Commission Adopts Revised SMRs for High-Needs Credential Areas (Q1 2027)

STEP 2: Engage in RFI Process (Q2-Q3 2027)

1. Issue RFI to vendors for examination options aligned to approved SMRs
2. Engage in technical conversations
3. Prepare recommendations

STEP 3: Present Proposed Contract to Commission for Consideration (Q1 2028)

ONGOING: Work Will Continue for Remaining Credential Areas





# Staff Recommendations

Direct Staff to:

- Evaluate ECO options for ES and PK3 intern candidates; present recommendation and proposed contract to Commission
- Evaluate options for CBEST replacement; present recommendation and proposed contract to Commission
- Update CTEL KSAs; evaluate options for replacement; present recommendation and proposed contract to Commission
- Following adoption of updated Administrative Services standards, develop revised CPACE aligned with updated CAPEs and CACEs; present recommendation and proposed contract to Commission
- Following adoption of revised SMRs, present recommendation and proposed contract to Commission
- Provide periodic progress updates on contracts, timelines, and/or any needed regulatory or legislative actions to Commission



# QUESTIONS?

