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Action

Ad Hoc Committee

Interview, Recommendation, and Appointment of Members for the Committee on Accreditation

Executive Summary: This agenda item provides information about the finalists for open positions on the Committee on Accreditation (COA). After interviewing the finalists from institutions of higher education and the K-12 community, the Ad Hoc Committee will select individuals to recommend to the Commission for appointment to the COA and may recommend additional individuals as alternates.

Recommended Action: That the Ad Hoc Committee recommend, and the Commission (a) approve the recommendations for three new members of the COA, two from the K-12 community and one from postsecondary education; and (b) that the Commission approve the recommendation of individuals for the COA Alternate List, if appropriate.

Presenters: Cheryl Hickey and Miranda Gutierrez, Administrators, Division of Standards, Accreditation, and Workforce Investment

Strategic Plan Goal

Educator Preparation and Advancement

- **Goal 1.** Educator preparation programs hold candidates to high standards and adequately prepare them to support all students by using culturally and linguistically responsive and sustaining practices in equitable, inclusive, and safe environments.
 - A. Set and uphold rigorous standards for educator preparation programs
 - C. Enact a rigorous accreditation process that ensures programs meet standards and are effective in preparing educators for public schools

Interview, Recommendation, and Appointment of Members for the Committee on Accreditation

Introduction

This agenda item provides information about the finalists for the Committee on Accreditation (COA). Six finalists are scheduled to be interviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Commission to fill 3 vacancies on the COA. The terms of the three incumbents will end on June 30, 2026. Two K-12 positions and one postsecondary position will need to be filled. In addition, the Commission may also appoint individuals to the Alternate List. In the event of an unanticipated vacancy on the COA, the Executive Director can appoint an individual from the Alternate List to the COA. The terms for the new members of the COA and the alternates will begin July 1, 2026, and extend through June 30, 2030.

Background

Education Code section 44373(a) sets forth that the Commission selects the members of the COA. The COA is composed of 12 members: six must be from postsecondary education and six must be certificated professionals in public schools, school districts, or county offices of education in California. Consistent with the adopted Accreditation Framework, the Commission appoints individuals to the COA for a four-year term. Listed below are the current members of the COA and when each of their terms end.

Members of the Committee on Accreditation K-12 Professionals

Connie Cambell

Coordinator
Santa Clara County Office of Education
Term Ends June 30, 2029

Malaika Bryant

Director - Educator Development
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Term Ends June 30, 2027

Allan Hallis

Administrator, Preliminary Teacher
Preparation
Riverside County Office of Education
Term Ends June 30, 2026

Patrick McKee

Director, Induction
Bonita Unified School District
Term Ends June 30, 2027

J Sikes

Director - Intern Programs
Davis Joint Unified School District
Term Ends June 30, 2028

Patricia Pernin

Director
Los Angeles Unified School District
Term Ends June 30, 2026

Postsecondary Professionals

Jessica Bogunovich

Program Chair/Associate Professor
University of Massachusetts Global
Term Ends June 30, 2029

Anne Jones

Assistant Dean, School of Education
University of California, Davis
Term Ends June 30, 2028

Michelle Hall

Assistant Dean
Chapman University
Term Ends June 30, 2029

Allison Leggett

Faculty
University of California, Los Angeles Extension
Term Ends June 30, 2027

Michael R. Hillis

Dean, Graduate School of Education California
Lutheran University
Term Ends June 30, 2027

Agustin Cervantes

Executive Director, Bay Area K-16 Collaborative
Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Term Ends June 30, 2026

The Commission may also appoint individuals to an Alternate List from which the Executive Director may appoint to the COA should an unexpected vacancy occur. The current Alternate List for the COA is included in the chart below:

K-12 Professionals	Postsecondary Professionals
Julie Sheldon, Induction Coordinator Walnut Valley Unified School District Availability for Appointment ends 2027	Dr. Hannah Geddy, Associate Dean LaFetra College of Education University of La Verne Availability for Appointment ends 2027
Dr. July Hill-Wilkinson, Assistant Principal Perris Union High School District- Perris HS Availability for Appointment ends 2028	Dr. Michael Corke, Director of Assessment and Accreditation Point Loma Nazarene University School of Education Availability for Appointment ends 2028

Impact of Anticipated Vacancies on the Composition of the Committee on Accreditation

Section 2.B(1) of the *Accreditation Framework* addresses the membership of the COA. It states that selection of members is based on the breadth of their experience, the diversity of their perspectives, and “their distinguished records of accomplishment in education” (Education Code §44373(a)). All members serve as members-at-large. No member serves on the COA as a representative of any organization, institution/program sponsor, or constituency. However, the membership of the COA is carefully constructed such that a variety of professional perspectives is ensured in considering accreditation-related decisions. The vacancies impact the composition of the COA; therefore, the Commission should take into consideration the following provisions of the *Framework* in its selection process for new COA members.

- a. *“The Committee includes members from the public K-12 school system, and from public and private postsecondary institutions.”*

All four K-12 continuing representatives are from the public school system.

Of the six current higher education members, three are from public institutions and three are from private/independent institutions. Of the four remaining members, three are from a private institution, two from the University of California system, and one from the California Community College system. Currently no individual from the California State University system serves on the COA.

- b. *“The elementary and secondary school members include certificated administrators, teachers, and at least one member involved in a professional educator preparation program.”*

The continuing four K-12 members on the COA include one county office program coordinator and 3 educator preparation program directors.

- c. *“The postsecondary members include administrators and faculty members, both of whom must be involved in professional educator preparation programs.”*

Many of the remaining postsecondary members serve in multiple roles for their institution. The continuing postsecondary membership on the COA includes 1 program chair, 2 assistant deans, 1 dean, and 1 faculty member. Some of the postsecondary members also have teaching responsibilities. All of the remaining members are involved in professional educator preparation programs and therefore the continuing membership meets these objectives.

- d. *“To the maximum extent possible, Committee membership is balanced according to ethnicity, gender, geographic regions and across credentials awarded by the Commission.”*

Of the nine continuing members, two identify as male, six as female, and one as nonbinary. Of the three members whose terms are expiring one is female and two are male. Six of the nine continuing members are from Southern California, two from Northern California, and one is from the Central Valley.

Responsibilities of the Commission and the Committee on Accreditation in Relation to the Accreditation System

It may be useful to members of the Commission in considering candidates to serve on the COA to review the specific responsibilities of the Commission and COA as outlined in the Education Code.

Responsibilities of the Commission in Relation to the Accreditation System

The Commission’s essential responsibilities related to the accreditation system as defined by the California Education Code and outlined in the *Accreditation Framework* are listed below:

- Adopt and Modify the Accreditation Framework
- Establish and Modify Standards for Educator Preparation
- Initial Approval of Institutions/Program Sponsors

- Hear and Resolve Accreditation Appeals
- Establish a Nominating Panel
- Appoint the Committee on Accreditation
- Address Issues and Refer Concerns related to Accreditation
- Review the Annual Report by the COA
- Allocate Resources Annually for Accreditation Operations
- Review and Sponsor Legislation Related to Accreditation

Responsibilities of the Committee on Accreditation in Relation to the Accreditation System

The COA is responsible for implementing the Commission’s accreditation system. Its specific responsibilities as defined by the California Education Code and outlined in the *Accreditation Framework* are listed below:

- Comparability of Standards
- Initial Approval of Programs
- Continuing Accreditation Decisions
- Accreditation Procedures
- Monitor the Accreditation System
- Communication with and reporting to the Commission
- Evaluate Accreditation Policies and Practices

Selection Process for New Members of the COA

Staff began the multi-step selection process for new COA members in November 2025 in accordance with the provisions of the *Accreditation Framework*. Information and the nomination forms were made available on the Commission website. All nomination materials were due February 28, 2026. Because an insufficient number of applications were received, the deadline was extended to March 20, 2026.

Commission staff made every effort to broadly publicize the COA vacancies. Commission staff included information on the vacancies and application process in the EQ Weekly Update for several weeks and discussed the need with various constituencies. By the March deadline, the Commission received 5 completed applications for the K-12 position and 5 completed applications for the IHE position.

The nominating panel, whose membership is appointed equally by the Chair of the Commission and the COA, is brought together to review the applications and put forward for interview with the Commission two highly qualified nominees for each vacant seat on the committee. The current nominating panel consisted of the following individuals.

Appointed by the Chair of the Commission:

- Dr. Meghan Cosier, Chapman University
- Benjamin Odell, Sacramento County Office of Education

Appointed by the Co-Chairs of the Committee on Accreditation:

Sean McCarthy, Murrieta Valley Unified School District
Pia Wong, California State University, Sacramento

These individuals considered the applications and chose the finalists to be interviewed by the Commission's Ad Hoc Committee for consideration of appointment to the COA by the full Commission.

The criteria for membership on the COA is set forth in the *Accreditation Framework* as follows:

The criteria for membership on the Committee are: evidence of achievement in the education profession; recognized professional or scholarly contributions in the field of education; recognition of excellence by peers; experience with and sensitivity to issues of human diversity; distinguished service in the field of educator preparation; knowledge of issues related to the preparation and licensing of education professionals; length of professional service; and possession of appropriate educational degrees and professional credentials. (Section 2B.2)

The Ad Hoc Committee will interview the finalists and review the recommendations at this Commission meeting and recommend to the full Commission the selection of two K-12 members and one higher education member in accordance with the following *Accreditation Framework* language (Section 2C.3):

The Commission selects and appoints the members and alternate members of the Committee by selecting from the nominations submitted by the Panel.

The Ad Hoc Committee may also recommend to the full Commission the appointment of any finalists to the Alternate List, which may be used to fill vacancies on the COA should any occur.

Finalists for the Committee on Accreditation

There are three vacancies on the COA for appointment in 2026: two K-12 vacancies and one postsecondary vacancy. Because the nominating panel was in the process of determining the finalists at the time of the posting of this agenda item, the names and application materials will be included in an agenda insert for the Commission in advance of the meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee recommend to the full Commission:

- The appointment of one individual to assume the one vacant postsecondary position on the COA.
- The appointment of two individuals to assume the two vacant K-12 positions on the COA.
- The appointment of any individuals to the COA/Alternate List.

In addition, staff recommends that the Commission review and approve the recommended appointments from the Ad Hoc Committee.