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# 3H

## Action

### *Educator Preparation Committee*

#### **Initial Institutional Approval – Stage V: Consideration of Full Institutional Approval for Santa Maria-Bonita School District**

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**Executive Summary:** This agenda item presents, as part of the Initial Institutional Approval process, the report from the 2026 provisional site visit and the Committee on Accreditation’s recommendation for an accreditation decision for Santa Maria-Bonita School District (Santa Maria-Bonita SD). The Commission will consider granting Santa Maria-Bonita SD full institutional approval.

**Recommended Action:** Staff recommends that the Commission review the Santa Maria-Bonita SD provisional site visit report and the Committee on Accreditation’s recommended accreditation decision and consider granting Santa Maria-Bonita SD full institutional approval.

**Presenters:** Roxann Purdue and Elizabeth de los Santos, Consultants, 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

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# Initial Institutional Approval – Stage V: Consideration of Institutional Approval for Santa Maria-Bonita School District

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## Introduction

This agenda item presents, as part of Stage V of the Initial Institutional Approval (IIA) process, the report from the 2026 provisional site visit for Santa Maria-Bonita School District (Santa Maria-Bonita SD) and the Committee on Accreditation’s recommended accreditation decision. The Commission granted provisional institutional approval to Santa Maria-Bonita SD at its [June 2022](#) meeting, and the Committee on Accreditation (COA) approved Santa Maria-Bonita SD’s Teacher Induction program at [August 2022](#) meeting. Consistent with the Commission’s Initial Institutional Approval process, Santa Maria-Bonita SD then began operating the Teacher Induction program and hosted a provisional site visit in November 2025. At its [January 2026](#) meeting, the COA accepted the site visit team’s findings and recommendation of *Accreditation* and moved the institution forward to the Commission for consideration of full institutional approval.

## Background

California law authorizes the Commission to accredit institutions to offer programs that lead to a credential to serve as an educator in California’s public schools. Among other responsibilities, Education Code section 44372(c) sets forth the Commission’s responsibility to rule on the eligibility of an applicant for initial accreditation for the purpose of offering a program of educator preparation.

The Commission requires that an institution seeking to offer new educator preparation program(s) must first be approved for initial accreditation as a new program sponsor and must do so by completing the Commission’s IIA process. A table detailing the five stages of the IIA process is provided on the following page. Santa Maria-Bonita SD completed the first four stages of the IIA process including hosting a provisional site visit. The timeline for these activities is illustrated in the table below.

**Initial Institutional Approval Process Timeline for Santa Maria-Bonita School District**

Activity	Date
Stage I	November 2021 – Completed Accreditation 101
Stage II	<a href="#">April 2022</a> – Commission Granted Eligibility
Stage III	<a href="#">June 2022</a> – Commission Granted Provisional Approval
Stage IV	<a href="#">August 2022</a> – COA Grants Initial Program Approval
Stage V	November 2025 – Provisional Site Visit
Stage V	<a href="#">January 29, 2026</a> – Report of Provisional Site Visit to COA
Stage V	April 2026 – Commission considers Full Approval

### Five Stages of the Initial Institutional Approval Process

Los Altos SD is seeking approval of Stage V in order to be eligible for Full Approval as highlighted and italicized in the chart below.

IIA Process	Stage I	State II	Stage III	Stage IV	Stage V
Action	Prerequisites	Eligibility	Provisional Approval	Initial Program Approval	Full Approval
<b>Purpose</b>	Ensures legal eligibility of institution in California  Ensures institution understands requirements of Commission's accreditation system	Ensures that institution has capacity to sponsor effective programs	Ensures institution meets all Common Standards	Ensures all proposed programs meet all relevant program standards and program-specific preconditions	<i>Program operates for 2-4 years and hosts a provisional accreditation site visit</i>
<b>Requirements</b>	Institution must: 1. Have legal eligibility 2. Attend Accreditation 101 with institutional team	Submit responses to: • 12 Eligibility Criteria • Initial Program Preconditions • • General Precondition #9	Submit responses to: • Common Standards	Submit responses to: • Program-Specific Preconditions  • • Program Standards	<i>Institution must:</i> • <i>Collect data</i> • <i>Host provisional site visit</i>
<b>Reviewed By</b>	Staff	Staff	: BIR	<b>Preconditions:</b> Staff <b>Common Standards:</b> BIR	<i>Site Visit Team and COA</i>
<b>Authority</b>	Staff	Commission	Commission	COA	<i>Commission</i>
<b>Decision</b>	Determine Eligibility for Stage II	Eligibility: 1. Grant 2. Deny	Provisional Approval: 1. Grant 2. Deny	Program(s): 1. Approve 2. Deny	<i>1. Grant Full Approval 2. Grant Full Approval &amp; Remand to COA to Address Stipulations 3. Continue Provisional Status for 1 Year to Address Stipulations 4. Deny</i>
<b>IIA Status</b>	Not Approved	Not Approved	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval	<i>Full Approval</i>

The provisional site visit was conducted in accordance with the procedures approved by the Commission and the Committee on Accreditation (COA) and outlined in the *Accreditation Handbook*. Santa Maria-Bonita SD submitted a complete Program Review submission, Common Standards submission, and responses to preconditions within the year preceding its provisional site visit. The Board of Institutional Review members assigned to the site visit worked together to review all evidence submitted as part of Program Review and Common Standards review and provided feedback to Santa Maria-Bonita regarding its preliminary alignment to the Commission's adopted standards. Staff assigned to the provisional site visit reviewed the institution's responses to preconditions to ensure full alignment.

In November 2025, the institution hosted its provisional site visit and the results of the visit, including the team's findings and accreditation recommendation, are available in the [\*Provisional Site Visit Report\*](#). The team determined that all Common Standards and Teacher Induction program standards were met and recommended the status of *Accreditation*, which the COA accepted at its January 2026 meeting. The COA then determined to move the institution forward to the Commission for consideration of full institutional approval.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommend that the Commission grant full institutional approval to Santa Maria-Bonita School District.

### **Next Steps**

If the Commission grants full institutional approval, the Administrator of Accreditation will assign the institution to one of the seven established accreditation cohorts, and the institution will participate in all activities of the seven-year accreditation cycle established by the Commission.