

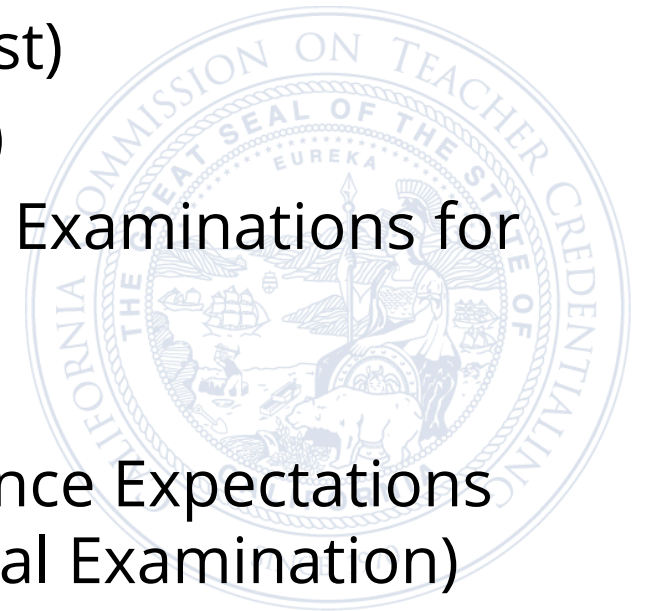
Item 3D: Update on Plans for Commission-Approved Examinations and Consideration of New Exam Options

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Background:

Commission is statutorily required to have exams to assess specific knowledge and skills for specific purposes:

- Basic Skills (California Basic Education Skills Test)
- Early Completion Option (adopted ECO exams)
- Subject Matter Competency (California Subject Examinations for Teachers)
- California Teachers of English Learners (CTEL)
- Administrative Services Content and Performance Expectations (California Preliminary Administrative Credential Examination)



Background:

- Workplan to update current exams approved by Commission in October 2025

Goal Today:

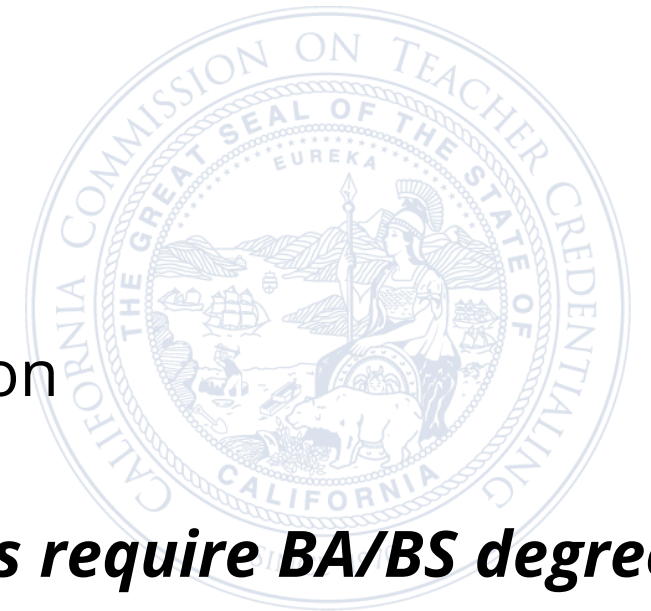
- Provide report on work completed to date
- Present recommendations for Commission action



Basic Skills Requirement (BSR)

- Historically met by California Basic Educational Skills Test
- Current options to satisfy:
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Qualifying coursework
 - CBEST (Reading + Math + Writing)
 - Combination of coursework + CBEST sub-section

All but four Commission-issued credentials/permits require BA/BS degree



Credentials/Permits Not Requiring BA/BS

Credential/Permit Type	Number Issued in 2024-25
Emergency Substitute Permit for Prospective Teacher	1199
Exchange Certificated Employee Credential	0
Sojourn Certificated Employee Credential	3
Designated Subjects Supervision and Coordination Credential	69
Total	1271

CBEST Administrations in 2024-25

CBEST Sub-Section	Administrations in 2024-25
All Three Sub-Sections in One Session	13,501
Reading	5093
Mathematics	5306
Writing	4916

**one individual may have taken one or more sub-sections multiple times*

CBEST Concerns

- More people taking than required to do so
- Last updated in 2013
 - Completing an update would require extension contract
- Few candidates required to take



BSR Exam Possible Action

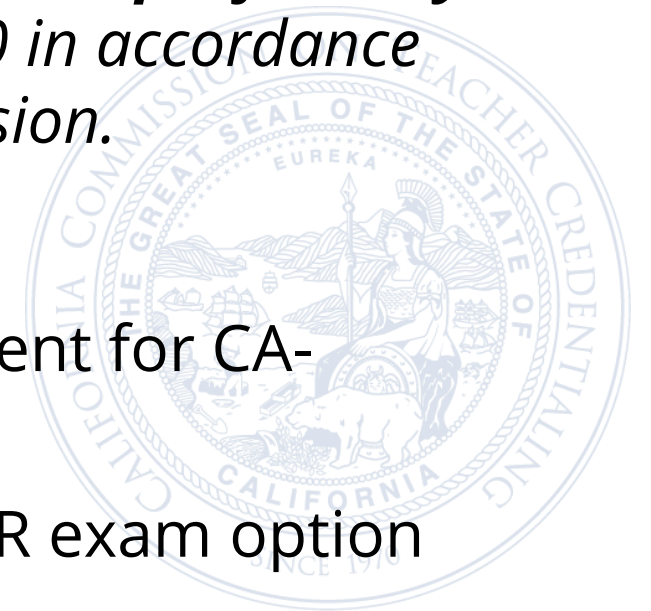
Education Code 44252.5:

*The Commission shall administer the **state basic skills proficiency test** pursuant to sections 44227, 44252, and 44830 in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Commission.*

Possible Action:

STEP 1: Pursue legislation to eliminate requirement for CA-specific basic skills exam

STEP 2: Adopt nationally available exam(s) as BSR exam option



National BSR Exam 1

National Evaluation Series Essential Academic Skills (ES/Pearson)

- Sections:
 - Reading (44 multiple-choice items)
 - Mathematics (44 multiple-choice items)
 - Writing (36 multiple-choice items + one constructed response)
- Cost:
 - \$70/single subsection
 - \$90/two subsections
 - \$120 for three subsections



National BSR Exam 2

Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (ETS)

- Sections:
 - Reading (56 multiple-choice items)
 - Mathematics (56 multiple-choice items)
 - Writing (40 multiple-choice items + two constructed response)
- Cost:
 - \$90/subsection



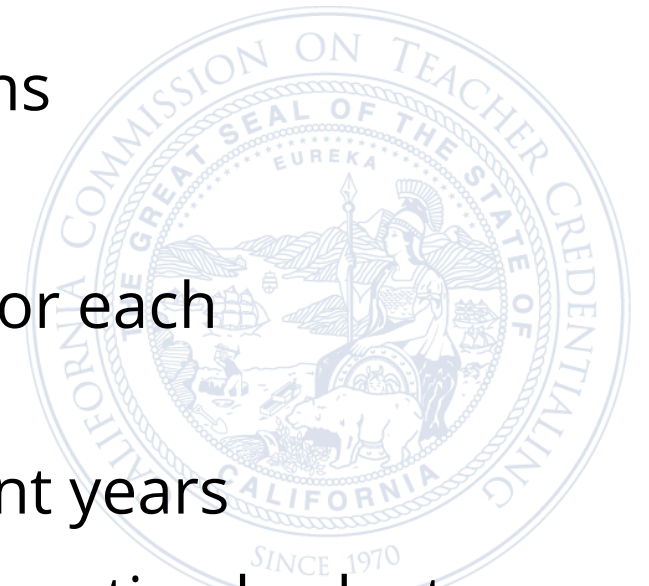
Other Factors to Consider

Passing Rates

- Both national exams have lower passing rates
 - Cannot directly compare test-taking populations

Fiscal Impact to Commission

- Commission currently receives management fee for each administration
 - Total amount has declined significantly in recent years
 - Not receiving would not significantly impact operating budget



BSR Staff Recommendation

1. Direct staff to pursue statutory change to eliminate requirement of CA-specific BSR exam
2. Adopt one or both national exams as replacements if state-specific requirement is eliminated
 - a) Adopt publisher-recommended passing standards for first year of administration until data can be collected to set CA-specific passing standards



Early Completion Option (ECO)

Education Code 44468 allows MS, SS, ES-MMSN, and PK3 intern candidates accelerated route to credential, if they:

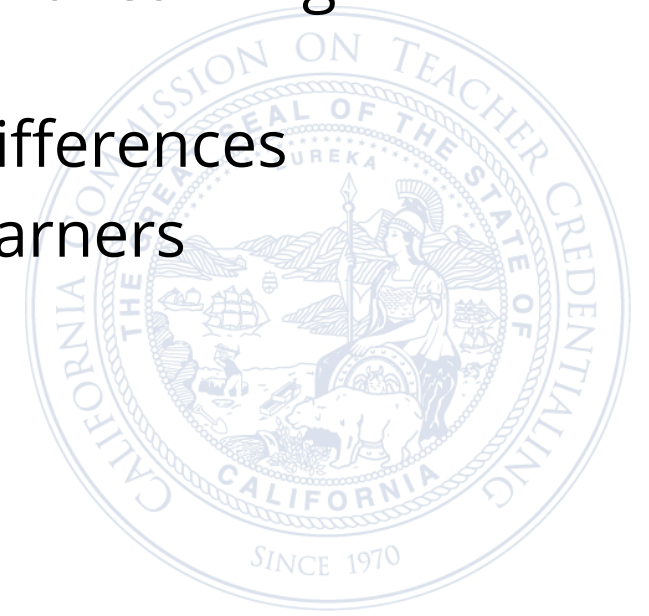
1. Pass a written assessment of their knowledge of teaching foundations
2. Pass the appropriate Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) on the first attempt
3. Pass a Commission-adopted literacy assessment (*now LPA*)
4. Meet the requirements for teacher fitness set forth in Sections 44339, 44340, and 44341

No assessment of teaching foundations adopted for ES or PK3

Knowledge of Teaching Foundations

Education Code 44468(1) states exam must assess:

- A. Human development as relates to teaching and learning adopted standards
- B. Techniques to address supporting learning differences
- C. Techniques to address supporting English Learners
- D. Reading instruction as set forth in 44259
- E. Assessment of pupil progress
- F. Classroom management techniques
- G. Methods of teaching the subject fields



Review of National Exams

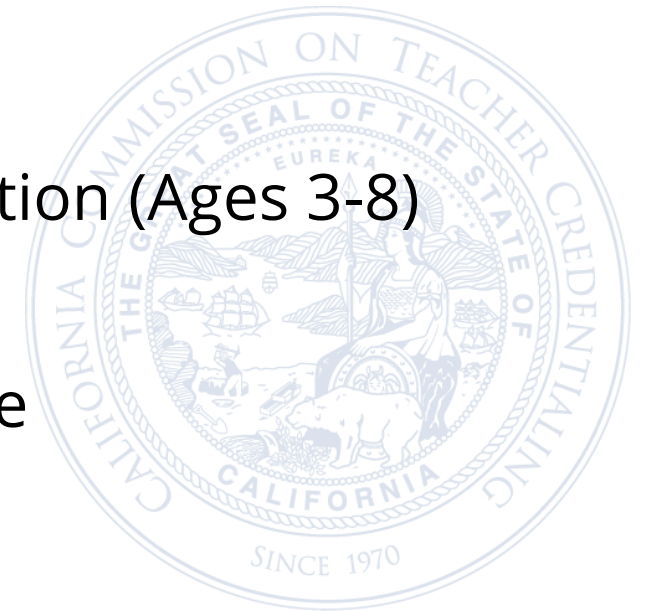
Reviewed to determine alignment with 44468(1)(A-G) requirements

PK3 Exams:

- Praxis: Early Childhood Education
- National Evaluation Series: Early Childhood Education (Ages 3-8)

ES-MMSN Exams:

- Praxis: Special Education: Foundational Knowledge
- National Evaluation Series: Special Education



PK3 Option 1:

Praxis: Early Childhood Education (ETS)

Part A: 70 multiple-choice items covering

- Students as Learners
- Instructional Process
- Assessment
- Professional Development, Leadership, & Community

Part B: Four constructed response items



PK3 Option 2:

NES: Early Childhood Education (Ages 3-8) (Evaluation Systems)

100 multiple-choice items covering

- Understanding child development ages 3-8
- Creating positive learning environments
- Designing, implementing, and evaluating learning experiences
- Understanding and using assessment to support learning



ES MMSN Option 1:

Praxis: Special Education: Foundational Knowledge (ETS)

120 selected-response items covering

- Human Development and Individual Learning Differences
- Effective Planning and Instruction
- Assessment
- Professional Learning, Practice, & Collaboration

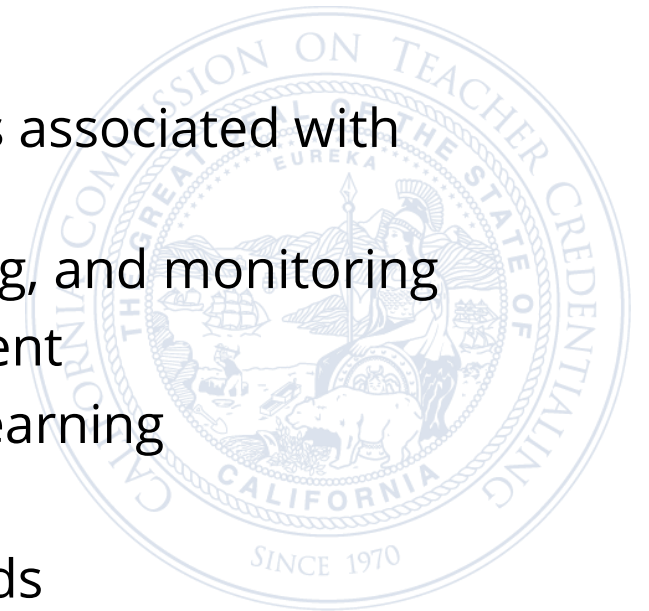


ES MMSN Option 2:

NES: Special Education (Evaluation Systems)

100 multiple-choice items covering understandings of

- Foundations of special education
- Human development and implications of characteristics associated with disability on students and families
- Role of assessment in identification, evaluation, planning, and monitoring
- Establishing positive and productive learning environment
- Individualized programming and planning to facilitate learning
- Evidence-based instructional practices
- Strategies for developing social-emotional learning needs
- Developing language skills
- Establishing and engaging in collaborative partnerships to support learning
- Professional and ethical roles and responsibilities



Results of Staff Evaluation

PK3 Options:

- Both assessments adequately cover content required in 44468(1)(A-G)
- NES: ECE focuses on ages 3-8; Praxis ECE covers infancy through childhood

ES MMSN Options:

- Both assessments adequately cover content required in 44468(1)(A-G)



ECO Staff Recommendation

1. Adopt all four exams as options for candidates to meet Part 1 of the ECO requirements

PK3:

Praxis: Early Childhood Education

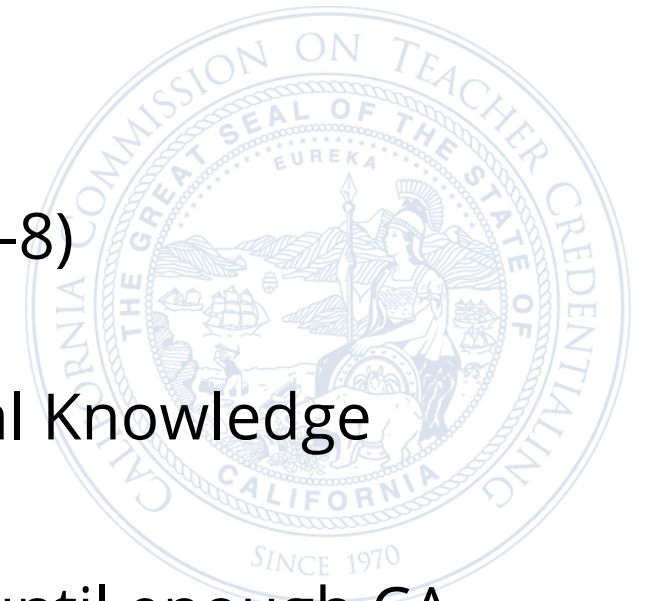
NES: Early Childhood Education (Age 3-8)

ES MMSN:

Praxis: Special Education: Foundational Knowledge

NES: Special Education

2. Preliminarily adopt national passing standards until enough CA data can be collected to set CA-specific passing standards

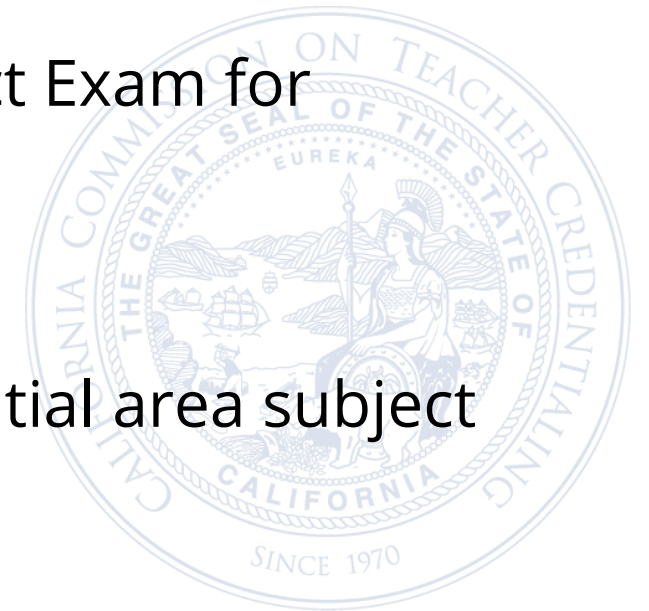


Subject Matter Competency

Education Code 44259 (b)(5)(A) stipulated that candidates must demonstrate Subject Matter Competency through:

- Passage of credential-specific California Subject Exam for Teachers (CSET) (44281)
- Completion of degree in credential area
- Completion of coursework aligned with credential area subject matter domains

AB 126 amended 44259 and 44281



Amendments to 44259

Updates to meeting Subject Matter Competency

Multiple Subject:

- Amend to state liberal studies major, education major, or other degree major that includes coursework required for content areas listed in 44282(b) as major requirements

PK3:

- Add child development majors and closely related majors

Single Subject:

- Expand list of acceptable degree majors

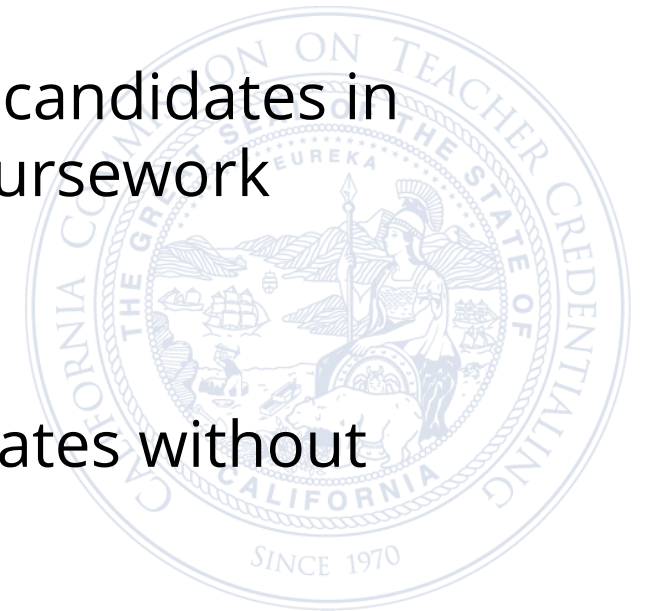


Amendments to 44281

Shift focus on Commission from maintaining subject matter exams for each credential area to:

- Partnering with preparation programs to support candidates in meeting SMC through completion of degree or coursework
- Updating the degree majors for meeting SMC
- Making subject matter exams available for candidates without appropriate degree or completed coursework

Likely Impact: Decline in number of candidates taking CSET



Shift in Subject Matter Exam Plan

2025 Plan:

- Revise Subject Matter Requirement Domains
- Update each CSET to align

Proposed Work Plan Revision:

- Issue RFI to learn about nationally available exams that align with SMR domains
- Review exams for demonstrated alignment
- Recommend those in alignment for potential approval



CA Teachers of English Learners (CTEL)

- Provides an option to earn the English Learner Authorization
- Required by Education Code 44253.5
- Assesses Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) for CTEL
 - Subtests align with ELD Standards, Framework, and Instructional Practices



CTEL Work to Date + Next Steps

2026: Internal discussions about future of CTEL exam with DSAWI

- Role of exam
- Changes in educator preparation
- Methods for earning EL Authorization

Next Steps (2026-2027):

STEP 1:

- Continue evaluating possible options, including possible standards updates required prior to updating exam

STEP 2:

- Return to Commission with recommendations



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



Anticipated CPACE Update Plan

STEP 1: Commission Adopts Revised CAPEs and CACEs following recommendations of ASC workgroup

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)



Staff Recommendations

Basic Skills Requirement:

- Direct staff to pursue statutory changes that would allow for consideration of sunseting CBEST and adopting national exams
- Provide feedback to staff on use of NES: Essential Academic Skills and Praxis: Core Academic Skills for Educators as basic skills exams

Early Completion Option:

- PK3: Approve Praxis: Early Childhood Education and NES: Early Childhood Education (Ages 3-8)
 - a) Adopt national passing standards
 - b) Direct staff to work with publishers to set CA standards
- ES-MMSN: Approve Praxis: Special Education: Foundational Knowledge and NES: Special Education
 - a) Adopt national passing standards
 - b) Direct staff to work with publishers to set CA standards

Approve Updated Work Plan

QUESTIONS?

