



February 1, 2024

Dr. Marquita Grenot-Scheyer, Commission Chair
California Commission on Teacher Credentialing
1900 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95811

**RE: California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Meeting February 8, 2024 - Agenda Item 4B:
Discussion and Potential Adoption of Proposed California Standards for the Teaching Profession.**

Dear Commission Chair Grenot-Scheyer and Commission Members:

The mission of Teach Plus is to empower excellent and diverse teachers to take leadership over key policy and practice issues that advance equity, opportunity, and student success. We are writing in regard to agenda item 4B and the potential adoption of new California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP), which are critical in advancing educational equity and ensuring every child in California has access to high-quality and culturally responsive educators.

We represent a diverse group of educators from throughout the state, spanning grades TK-12, across all disciplines, with experience ranging from 3 years to 40 years in the classroom. We recognize the need for teachers to be guided by standards that serve as a strong foundation to effectively teach and grow as educational professionals. An updated CSTP is an essential element to support and improve teacher practice, as well as a robust induction process.

We are pleased that the revised CSTP features several key shifts from the 2009 version, chief among them a more holistic approach to teaching and learning. For example, the move from goal setting to designing learning experiences shifts the focus from results to students' learning. Another notable shift is recognizing that all teachers, regardless of subject-specific credential areas, are teachers of literacy skills. This, combined with explicit references to support the needs of all learners (including multilingual learners and learners with exceptional needs) throughout the standards will greatly increase educational equity. Finally, we are thrilled with the inclusion of standard 6-G and the explicit recognition of the importance of the well-being of teachers. We strongly support the adoption of the revised standards.

While we support the adoption of the new CSTP, the Commission's plan for the implementation and rollout of the standards needs clarification. The new CSTPs are aspirational and have far reaching consequences; in order to reach their full potential the CTC must offer meaningful and sustained guidance. A single year of technical support is unlikely to be sufficient for induction programs transitioning to the new CSTP. Furthermore, it is unclear what support the CTC will offer during that time. Finally, it is vitally important to establish a shared understanding across agencies around terms used throughout the CSTP, such as culturally relevant, asset-based, and developmentally appropriate, as well as ensuring that any guidance provided by the CTC is aligned to the English Learner Roadmap.

Recommendations

We recommend the Commission adopt the proposed CSTP, but for the aspirational vision that they set to lead to meaningful changes for student outcomes, it is critically important to develop a more robust plan

of support for teacher preparation and induction programs. We urge the Commission to:

- Extend the technical support time from 1 year to at least 2 years,
- Develop and distribute a guidebook including flexible timelines, professional development ideas, and resources for understanding the new standards, and
- Design professional development to meet the needs of preparation program leaders and induction professionals.

Moreover, we believe it is important that the state allocate targeted funding to the CTC to lead all this work and to LEAs to support the integration of the new standards in their induction programs. Current induction programs are funded through Local Control Funding Formula dollars, which has led to significant variation in local programming. To prioritize the shifts embedded in the revised standards statewide, it is important that state leaders provide additional resources to do that. While we recognize the current fiscal challenges, Teach Plus teacher leaders are eager to partner with the Commission and other educational partners to ensure this investment is included in future state budgets.

These recommendations are consistent with those we heard from pre-service and induction providers in interviews reflected in our report, [Transform California Teaching and Learning: Teach Plus California Policy Fellows on Supporting and Funding New Teacher Standards](#).

Teach Plus and our teachers appreciate the significant amount of work that has been done in developing and refining the CSTP. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Sincerely,



Sarah Lillis
Teach Plus California Executive Director
916.761.1385
slillis@teachplus.org

Wendy Threatt
4th Grade teacher
Felicita Elementary/Escondido Union
2023-24 Teach Plus California Senior Policy Fellow

Eric Lewis
Teacher/Science Content Specialist
San Francisco Unified School District - C&I Science
2023-24 Teach Plus California Policy Fellow

Joshua Salas
12th Grade Resource Specialist
Alliance Renee & Meyer Luskin Academy
2023-24 Teach Plus California Senior Policy Fellow

Tammy Phuong Pham
6th-8th Grade College Readiness Teacher
Environmental Charter Middle Schools
2023-24 Teach Plus California Policy Fellow

Amanda Chiatovich Cloutier
8th grade Math and Science Teacher/TLL
Pinon Mesa Middle School/ Snowline JUSD
2023-24 Teach Plus California Policy Fellow

Amy Kassorla Weisberg
Universal Transitional Kindergarten Teacher
Topanga Elementary Charter School, LAUSD
2021-22 Teach Plus California Policy Fellow

Juan Resendez
Social Studies Teacher/Instructor
Portola High School/University of California
2022-23 Teach Plus California Policy Fellow

Rebecca Pariso
7th grade Math Teacher
Hueneme Elementary School District
2023-24 Teach Plus California Policy Fellow

Adam Erkeneff
4th Grade Math and Science Teacher
Capitol Collegiate Academy
2022-23 Teach Plus California Policy Fellow

Mary Lopez
ELD Teacher
Riverbank Unified School District
2023-24 Teach Plus California Policy Fellow

Jacqueline Gardner
7th Grade Science Teacher
North Mountain Middle School
2023-24 Teach Plus California Senior Policy Fellow

Anaité Letona
6th/7th Resource Teacher
Harvest Park Middle School
2023-24 Teach Plus California Policy Fellow

Lorena Ellis
Community Schools Program Specialist
Gladstone Middle School, Azusa Unified
2023-24 Teach Plus California Senior Policy Fellow

cc: Commission on Teacher Credentialing Commissioners
Mary Sandy, Executive Director, CTC
David DeGuire, Director, Professional Services Division, CTC
Cara Mendoza, Administrator, Professional Services Division, CTC
Karen Sacramento, CTC