

---

# 3G

## Action

### *Educator Preparation Committee*

#### **Potential Alignment with the National Accrediting Body for Pupil Personnel Services School Social Work in the Area of Advanced Standing**

---

**Executive Summary:** This agenda item presents potential recommendations concerning an alignment between the Council for Social Work Education and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in the area of Advanced Standing for Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) School Social Work (SSW). Proposed revisions to Preconditions and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 80049 for the PPS SSW are presented for Commission discussion and possible action.

**Recommended Action:** Staff recommends that the Commission review the information presented in this agenda item and, if appropriate, adopt the proposed revisions to the PPS SSW Preconditions and Title 5 CCR section 80049 to more closely align with Council for Social Work Education.

**Presenter:** Roxann Purdue, Consultant, Professional Services Division

#### **Strategic Plan Goals**

##### ***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.
  - B. Develop educator performance assessments that are embedded in clinical preparation to ensure readiness to begin professional practice.
  - C. Enact a rigorous accreditation process that ensures programs meet standards and are effective in preparing educators for public schools.
- **Goal 7.** The Commission's work is grounded in research, informed by the voices of practitioners and communities of interests, and supports continuous improvement in educator preparation and licensure.

---

# Potential Alignment with the National Accrediting Body for Pupil Personnel Services School Social Work in the Area of Advanced Standing

---

## Introduction

This agenda item presents potential recommendations concerning an alignment between the Council for Social Work Education, which is the national professional association and accrediting body, and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) in the area of Advanced Standing for Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) School Social Work (SSW). The potentially updated Preconditions and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) for the PPS SSW are presented for Commission discussion and possible action.

## Background

The Council for Social Work Education (CSWE), founded in 1952, is a national association representing social work education in the United States and its territories. CSWE's Board of Accreditation is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the only accrediting agency for social work education in the United States.

The CSWE recently had a change in policy that impacted all Master of Social Work (MSW) programs accredited by CSWE. The CSWE Board of Accreditation requires all institutions with CSWE accredited MSW programs to also have a Bachelor of Social Work program by 2025. While some institutions with CSWE accredited MSW programs already had BSW programs, others did not and had to develop these programs to maintain their CSWE accreditation.

As part of its effort to grow bachelor's and master's degree programs, CSWE also adopted another requirement related to individuals graduating from BSW programs and matriculating into Master's in Social Work programs. "Advanced Standing" must be offered to all candidates who hold a BSW from a CSWE-accredited institution. Essentially, Advanced Standing for these candidates means that they may not be required to repeat any generalist content at the master's level that they took at the bachelor's degree level. The CSWE language on the topic of Advanced Standing is as follows:

### Advanced Standing Requirement (Accreditation Standard M4.1.3)

- i. All master's programs must offer advanced standing to graduates holding degrees from baccalaureate social work programs accredited by CSWE's Board of Accreditation.
- ii. Programs must have a policy to ensure that students admitted to advanced standing programs do not repeat generalist content at the master's level that has been achieved at the baccalaureate level.

California's PPS School Social Work programs, which are tied to master's level programs, have requested clarification from the Commission to ensure that the Commission's requirements

reflected in the preconditions and Title 5 CCR section 80049 are not at odds with what they are being required to do by their national professional accrediting body.

### **Current Commission Requirement**

Title 5 Regulations require programs to be 45 semester units (or the equivalent) at the **postgraduate level**. This requirement is also reflected in Precondition 2 for PPS School Social Work programs. Precondition 2 of the PPS School Social Work reads as follows:

#### *Precondition 2: Program Curriculum*

*A college or university that operates a program of professional preparation shall have a curriculum that meets the appropriate requirement as follows:*

*A program of study for the **school social work specialization** shall be: Equivalent to a minimum of 45 semester units or 67.5 quarter units; or 675 classroom hours of postgraduate study.*

Because the regulatory language and the preconditions state that the program must be 45 semester units at the postsecondary level, PPS School Social Work programs are concerned that this language limits their ability to comply with the new CSWE requirements on Advanced Standing as it allows candidates who meet the criteria of having earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work from a CSWE accredited program to "waive" certain coursework.

After discussions with members of the PPS School Social Work community, staff proposes the following revised precondition. The proposed language is included in underline type below:

#### *Proposed Revision to Precondition 2: Program Curriculum*

*A college or university that operates a program of professional preparation shall have a curriculum that meets the appropriate requirement as follows:*

*A program of study for the **school social work specialization** shall be: Equivalent to a minimum of 45 semester units or 67.5 quarter units; or 675 classroom hours of postgraduate study.*

*Programs may award advanced standing for PPS SSW candidates who have completed a CSWE accredited Baccalaureate degree program in social work. Advanced standing candidates may be granted equivalency for Baccalaureate level coursework that covers general social work concepts not associated with the school social work and child welfare and attendance authorization performance expectations.*

Title 5 CCR section 80049 also specifies that the candidate must complete 45 semester units of study in a post baccalaureate professional preparation program, as seen below:

(c) The minimum requirements for the clear Pupil Personnel Services Credential for applicants who complete a professional preparation program outside California shall include (1) through (3). Applicants may apply directly to the Commission for the clear Pupil Personnel Services Credential under this section:

- (1) a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
- (2) demonstrate proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills as described in Education Code Section 44252(b); and
- (3) the completion of a post baccalaureate professional preparation program comparable to a program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation in the requested pupil personnel services area of specialization, including successful completion of a supervised field practice appropriate to the specialization area, in a school setting in direct contact with pupils, but taken outside California. The program must be from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and approved by the appropriate state agency where the course work was completed;
  - (A) The professional preparation program of study for the school counseling specialization area must include a minimum of 30 semester units, or the equivalent in quarter units, of post baccalaureate study;
  - (B) The professional preparation program of study for the school social work specialization area must include a minimum of 45 semester units, or the equivalent in quarter units, of post baccalaureate study;
  - (C) The professional preparation program of study for the school psychologist specialization area must include a minimum of 60 semester units, or the equivalent in quarter units, of post baccalaureate study;
  - (D) The professional preparation program of study for the added school child welfare and attendance specialization area must include a minimum of 9 semester units, or the equivalent in quarter units of post baccalaureate study.

The proposal in this agenda item would allow PPS School Social Work programs to meet both requirements for the Commission as well as the CSWE. It would restrict the use of Advanced Standing to particular candidates while allowing these candidates to use bachelor's level coursework for general social work concepts toward the 45 semester units required for the PPS SSW credential. However, it also ensures that these candidates must use postgraduate level coursework to meet the requirements of the performance expectations. In doing so, it ensures that all PPS School Social Work programs in California include attention to and preparation for candidates to demonstrate the PPS School Social Work Performance Expectations.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Commission review the information presented in this agenda item and, if appropriate, approve proposed changes related to Advanced Standing in Precondition 2 for PPS School Social Work.

### **Next Steps**

If the Commission adopts the proposed revisions to Precondition 2, staff will take appropriate next steps. These would include but not be limited to initiating the regulatory process, issuing a Program Sponsor Alert to notify PPS SSW programs of the change to preconditions, and updating any and all accreditation materials, as appropriate.