



AB 1106 – PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential

Incentivize the adoption of new credential to expand early learning workforce

SUMMARY

In August 2022, California’s Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved the new PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Credential which is designed to **advance best practices in child development and support the demand for qualified, diverse teachers that can serve children preschool – 3rd grade.**

This bill would establish a **grant program for institutions** of higher education (IHEs) **seeking to implement this new credential.**

BACKGROUND

California has made significant investments towards the goal of expanding transitional kindergarten (TK) to all 4-year-olds in the state by the 2025-26 school year. The expansion of TK has created demand for new teachers in public school classrooms. To meet the demand, districts will need to hire between 11,000 and 15,600 TK teachers on top of the state’s existing shortage.

Furthermore, the public higher education systems ([UC](#), [CSU](#), and [CCC](#)) all have goals to increase the number of students graduating with degrees in early education by 2026-27.

The new PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential, also in the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care, is designed to expand and support a qualified and diverse workforce. The regulations for this credential are expected to be finalized by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in spring 2023. The credential will prepare preschool - 3rd grade teachers with more

specialized instruction and training to meet the developmental needs for children of that age group.

California is home to approximately 2.5 million multilingual learners, more than any other state. Despite the high need, the state is facing a low supply of bilingual educators. In 1998, Proposition 227 passed, requiring English-only instruction in classrooms and imposing restrictions on bilingual education. While this was rectified in 2016 through Proposition 58, a proposition removing English-only instruction requirements, the impact to these programs and the small number of qualified bilingual educators remains. With 60% of children under age 5 being Dual Language Learners and the demand for more dual language immersion programs, it is crucial that the state supports the development of preparation programs which allow for earning a teaching credential and bilingual authorization at the same time.

THIS BILL

AB 1106 establishes a **one-time grant program**, administered by the CTC, to **incentivize development and implementation at IHEs of the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential pathway.** Grantees will be encouraged to work with their corresponding **bilingual authorization programs** to meet the demand for an early learning workforce that is prepared to teach the next generation of Californians.

STATUS

Assembly Education Committee

SUPPORT

The Education Trust – West (Co-Sponsor)
Children Now (Co-Sponsor)

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