

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 1106 (Soria)

As Amended March 30, 2023

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Establishes a grant program for institutions of higher education (IHEs) to establish programs of professional preparation that lead to more credentialed teachers obtaining the PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Credential and a bilingual authorization.

Major Provisions

- 1) Requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to develop and implement a program to award, on a competitive basis, planning grants of up to \$250,000 each to regionally accredited IHEs for the development of plans to guide the creation of programs of professional preparation that lead to more credentialed teachers obtaining the PK-3 ECE Specialist Credential and a bilingual authorization.
- 2) Requires the CTC to develop and implement a program to award, on a competitive basis, implementation grants of up to \$500,000 each to regionally accredited IHEs for the implementation of programs of professional preparation, that lead to more teachers with the PK-3 ECE Specialist Credential and a bilingual authorization.
- 3) States that a regionally accredited IHE awarded a planning grant may use the grant funds to create a new four-year integrated program of professional preparation, adapt an existing integrated program of professional preparation, or establish a stand-alone program of professional preparation.
- 4) Requires the CTC to give priority to grant applications that propose to allow candidates to earn the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential and a bilingual authorization at the same time.

COMMENTS

What does this bill do? This bill establishes, upon appropriation in the Budget Act, a grant program for IHEs to establish PK-3 ECE Specialist Credential programs and give a preference in the grant awards to those programs that also offer a bilingual authorization. The bill establishes \$250,000 planning grants and \$500,000 implementation grants for these programs.

PK-3 early childhood education specialist credential. According to the CTC, California is making historic investments that will increase access to transitional kindergarten (TK) for all four-year-old children in the state. Recent estimates from the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at UC Berkeley indicate a need for between 8,000 and 11,000 new teachers in a K-12 system that is already struggling with critical teacher shortages across the state. The proposed PK-3 ECE Specialist Credential is specifically designed and intended to meet this demand for a qualified, diverse workforce of ECE teachers to serve children and their families/guardians from three years to third grade. The proposed credential will provide accelerated pathways for current Multiple Subject Credential holders as well as for Child Development Teacher Permit holders with a bachelor's degree. The PK-3 ECE Credential is an opportunity to advance best practices in child development in the current TK-12 education system. The PK-3 ECE Specialist

Credential is a unique opportunity that has not been available in California for decades and may not be again.

Current early childhood educators who want to work in TK classrooms and those teachers and teachers-to-be who want to teach preschool to grade 3 in public schools are potential candidates for PK-3 ECE specialist credential. While Multiple Subject Credential holders are already authorized to serve in grades PK-3, this credential will be available to help them meet a requirement that they complete 24 units of child development or ECE coursework required to teach in TK. This credential will also be an option for Child Development Teacher Permit holders as well as other individuals interested in a career in teaching in ECE who want to teach in grades PK-3. Beginning in early 2023, CTC accredited institutions may apply to offer a PK-3 Specialist Instruction Program.

According to the Author

"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. 76% of children aged 0-4 in California are children of color and yet only 39% of the current TK-12 workforce are teachers of color (CDE, 2020).

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, consistent with the state's Master Plan for Early Learning and Care. 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.

AB 1106 establishes a one-time grant program, administered by Commission on Teacher Credentialing, to IHEs to incentivize development and implementation of the PK-3 ECE Specialist Credential pathway and support program development that is rooted in best practices to support diverse candidates."

Arguments in Support

According to The Education Trust - West, "AB 1106 (Soria) specifically focuses on supporting IHEs seeking to implement the new PK-3 ECE Credential and encourage grantees to work with their corresponding bilingual authorization program to meet the demand for more bilingual early learning educators. It is for these reasons that we strongly support AB 1106 (Soria) and respectfully ask for an AYE vote."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee,

- 1) Unspecified one-time costs, likely General Fund, for the grant program. If CTC awarded 10 planning grants and 10 implementation grants, costs would be \$7.5 million.
- 2) Ongoing costs, likely General Fund, to CTC of \$174,000 a year over the life of the grant program to hire a staff person to administer grants, collect data, and produce a report annually. The bill allows CTC to use up to 1.5% of grant funds for program administration.

VOTES

ASM EDUCATION: 6-0-1

YES: Muratsuchi, Megan Dahle, Juan Carrillo, Hoover, Lee, Quirk-Silva

ABS, ABST OR NV: McCarty

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-1

YES: Holden, Megan Dahle, Bryan, Calderon, Wendy Carrillo, Dixon, Mike Fong, Hart, Lowenthal, Mathis, Papan, Pellerin, Sanchez, Weber, Ortega

ABS, ABST OR NV: Robert Rivas

UPDATED

VERSION: March 30, 2023

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