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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### **AB 1454 (Rivas) - Pupil literacy: credential program standards and professional development: instructional materials**

**Version:** June 30, 2025

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 18, 2025

**Policy Vote:** ED. 7 - 0

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Lenin Del Castillo

**Bill Summary:** This bill requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to revise its standards for the literacy specialist and administrator preparation programs to ensure alignment with evidence-based literacy practices and the state's English Language Arts/English Language Development (ELA/ELD) Framework. The bill also requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt new instructional materials for grades K-8 in ELA/ELD that meet specified criteria, and establishes related requirements for local adoptions of instructional materials.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- The CTC estimates one-time General Fund costs of \$50,000 for the cost of the workgroup and to update its standards for the reading and literacy leadership specialist credential and the reading and literacy added authorization. The bill's requirement for CTC to update its program standards for the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential would contingent upon an appropriation. However, the CTC indicates that it received funding for this purpose in the 2025 Budget Act .
- The California Department of Education (CDE) estimates General Fund costs of approximately \$324,000 each year for the SBE to conduct a new K-8 ELA/ELD instructional materials adoption by January 2027.

**Background:** Existing law requires candidates for multiple subject, single subject in English, and education specialist credentials to receive preparation in comprehensive, research-based literacy instruction. This includes evidence-based instruction in print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, fluency, oral language, vocabulary, and reading comprehension, with tiered supports for students with reading difficulties, English learners, and students with exceptional needs.

Existing law requires that literacy instruction in teacher preparation programs align to the ELA/ELD Framework, the CTC teaching performance expectations (TPEs), and the program guidelines for dyslexia.

Existing law requires the SBE to adopt at least five basic instructional materials for each subject area, including ELA/ELD, that are aligned to the state frameworks and content standards and reflective of current research.

Existing law authorizes local educational agencies (LEAs) to adopt instructional materials aligned to state content standards, even if not adopted by the SBE, provided that a majority of reviewers are classroom teachers and that LEAs engage teachers, parents, and community members in the selection process.

**Proposed Law:** This bill require the CTC, by January 1, 2028, to ensure that its program standards and TPEs for the Reading and Literacy Leadership Specialist Credential and the Reading and Literacy Added Authorization include preparation on how to deliver instruction and support teachers in delivering effective literacy instruction. Specifically, the bill requires this preparation to align with:

1. The ELA/ELD Framework;
2. Evidence-based practices for foundational reading skills, including explicit and systematic instruction in print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, and fluency; oral language development, vocabulary and background knowledge, and reading comprehension; and tiered supports for students with reading difficulties, English learners, and students with exceptional needs; and
3. The program guidelines for dyslexia developed pursuant to Education Code Section 56335.

This bill requires the CTC, by September 1, 2028, to ensure that its program standards for the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential include preparation on how to support teachers in delivering effective literacy instruction, aligned to the same frameworks and evidence-based practices as above. The bill also requires the CTC to confirm that administrator preparation programs implement the revised standards.

This bill makes implementation of the administrator credential provisions contingent upon an appropriation in the Budget Act or another statute.

This bill requires adoption of new instructional materials in ELA/ELD. Specifically, the bill requires the SBE, by January 31, 2027, to adopt instructional materials for kindergarten through grade 8 in ELA/ELD, consistent with procedures for follow-up adoptions under existing law. The bill sets various requirements for the materials that are adopted, including alignment to the current ELA/ELD Framework, including both integrated and designated ELD instruction.

This bill requires the SBE to update the Guidance for Local Instructional Materials Adoptions to reflect the new criteria. This bill also requires LEAs that adopt instructional materials not on the state-adopted list to certify alignment to these criteria, and for LEAs adopting materials locally to follow the local adoption process described in Education Code Section 60002, including teacher and public input.

**Staff Comments:** The state has made recent updates to teacher preparation standards and TPEs to align with evidence-based reading instruction. This bill proposes to extends that alignment to literacy specialists and school administrators. Specifically, the bill requires CTC to update its standards and TPEs for the Reading and Literacy Leadership Specialist Credential and the Reading and Literacy Added

Authorization by 2028. It also requires that administrator preparation programs equip candidates with the knowledge and skills to support effective literacy instruction. According to the author, “AB 1454 builds on California’s efforts to support teaching children to read by requiring the state to adopt instructional materials in English language arts/English language development and identify effective professional development programs that reinforce evidence-based instruction. This bill will also help principals support teachers in delivering effective literacy instruction by updating their preparation standards. AB 1454 provides a meaningful approach to addressing early literacy and ensures California educators have the tools they need to support our youngest readers.”

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