

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Darshana R. Patel, Chair
AB 2206 (Fong) – As Amended April 6, 2026

[Note: This bill is double referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and will be heard by that Committee as it relates to issues under its jurisdiction.]

SUBJECT: Teacher education programs: community colleges

SUMMARY: Authorizes California Community Colleges that offered a baccalaureate degree in career technical education fields prior to January 1, 2026, to offer a corresponding program of personalized preparation and recommend the issuance of designated subjects teacher credentials in the career technical education (CTE) field associated with the baccalaureate degree. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Establishes the California Community College designated subjects CTE credential pilot program.
- 2) Authorizes, until January 1, 2033, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to approve a community college to recommend the issuance of a designated subjects CTE credential in a subject aligned to the institution's approved baccalaureate degree major to persons who have successfully completed a program of personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials at the community college if the program of personalized preparation meets the standards approved by the CTC.
- 3) Requires the CTC to apply the same standards for approval of a program of professional preparation offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education to a program for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials offered by a community college.
- 4) Defines, for purposes of this pilot program, "community college" to mean a California community college within a California community college district that offered a baccalaureate degree before January 1, 2026, through a baccalaureate degree program approved, as specified.
- 5) Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), by January 1, 2032, to conduct an interim statewide evaluation of the programs for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials accredited by the CTC and report to the Legislature and the Governor. Requires the interim statewide evaluation to include, but not be limited to, all of the following:
 - a) How many, and which specific, community colleges applied for and were accredited to offer a program for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials by the CTC;
 - b) How many, and which specific, community colleges applied to be approved to offer a program for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials, and are, at the time of the interim evaluation, still undergoing accreditation with the CTC;

- c) How many, and which specific, community colleges applied for a program for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials and were denied accreditation by the CTC and the reason or reasons the CTC denied the accreditation of a program for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials at a community college;
 - d) The cost to each community college that offers a program for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials and the funding sources that were used to finance these programs;
 - e) The cost to a candidate who enrolls in a program for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials at a community college;
 - f) Completion rates for each cohort of students who enroll and participate in a program for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials offered by a community college;
 - g) The completion rates for the programs of professional preparation offered by local educational agencies (LEAs), the California State University (CSU), the University of California (UC), and independent institutions of higher education for each program for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials;
 - h) The number of designated subjects CTE credentials issued pursuant to this measure;
 - i) The number of teachers who are issued a designated subjects CTE credential pursuant to this measure and are still employed in a teaching position after three years; and
 - j) Current trends in workforce demands for teachers with a designated subjects CTE credential in the region in which the community college offers a program for personalized preparation for designated subjects CTE credentials pursuant to this measure.
- 6) Requires a community college to submit the information necessary to conduct the interim statewide evaluation, as determined by the LAO, to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, who shall provide the information to the LAO upon request.
- 7) Authorizes the issuance of a three-year preliminary designated subjects CTE teaching credential with a baccalaureate degree in the industry sector or subject named on the credential from a community or junior college that confers baccalaureate degrees or a regionally accredited institution of higher education, instead of three years of industry experience.
- 8) Deletes community colleges from the definition of regionally accredited, and instead states, for purposes of the baccalaureate degree requirement for teacher credentialing purposes, a baccalaureate degree from a community or junior college that is regionally accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges satisfies the baccalaureate degree requirement only if the baccalaureate degree includes coursework in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills in the English language.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the minimum requirements for the three-year preliminary designated subjects CTE teaching credential as:
 - a) Three years or the equivalent of adequate, successful, and recent experience in, or experience and education in, the subject named on the credential;
 - b) Possession of a high school diploma or the passage of an equivalency examination as designated by the commission;
 - c) Satisfaction of the requirements for teacher fitness;
 - d) Commencing July 1, 2025, certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that meets the standards established by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross; and
 - e) States that the holder of a credential shall satisfy the minimum experience requirements established by the local educational agency for each course the credentialholder is assigned to teach. (Education Code (EC) 44260)
- 2) Establishes the minimum requirements for the five-year clear designated subjects CTE teaching credential as:
 - a) A valid three-year preliminary designated subjects CTE teaching credential;
 - b) Two years of successful teaching, or the equivalent, as authorized by the preliminary designated subjects CTE teaching credential;
 - c) Completion of a program of personalized preparation as approved by the CTC. It is the intent of the Legislature that the program of personalized preparation be consistent with whether the credentialholder performs full- or part-time service;
 - d) The study of health education;
 - e) Completion of two semester units or passage of an examination on the principles and provisions of the United States Constitution;
 - f) The study of computer-based technology, including the uses of technology in educational settings;
 - g) Commencing July 1, 2025, certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that meets the standards established by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross unless the applicant has already demonstrated their certification in CPR; and
 - h) States that the holder of a credential shall satisfy the minimum experience requirements established by the local educational agency for each course the credentialholder is assigned to teach. (EC 44260.1)

- 3) Defines, “regionally accredited” for purposes of the Teacher Education Chapter in Education Code. (EC 44203)
- 4) Authorizes the commission to approve regionally accredited higher education institutions to provide teacher education programs. (EC 44227)
- 5) Establishes the Donahoe Higher Education Act and contains the codified sections of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education including the different missions of the public higher education segments for the purpose of providing postsecondary education services for the State. Authorizes the California Community College to offer education up to a two-year degree. Authorizes the CSU to offer undergraduate and graduate education up to a master’s degree in liberal arts, sciences, and professional education, including teacher education. Permits the CSU, in specific circumstances, the ability to offer applied doctoral degree programs. Permits the UC to provide undergraduate and graduate education in liberal arts and sciences; and professional education such as legal studies, doctoral programs, and teacher education. (EC 66010.4)
- 6) Establishes the baccalaureate degree program at the California Community Colleges; whereby, in specific circumstances and with the approval of the CSU and the UC, approved community college districts may offer baccalaureate degrees to meet unmet workforce needs in the region of the community college. (EC 78040-78043)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. According to the author, “AB 2206 is a measured approach to expanding teacher preparation programs to the California Community Colleges by allowing colleges with pre-existing baccalaureate degree programs to offer a corresponding CTE degree. This will allow the community college an opportunity to demonstrate they are able to offer quality post-baccalaureate degree programs and to assist in addressing a critical workforce shortage. Community colleges are meant to serve their community, and this measure expands their opportunity to meet an unmet workforce need by offering career educational teacher preparation programs.”

What does this bill do? The pilot program proposed by AB 2206 (Fong) would authorize the California Community Colleges (CCC) that offered baccalaureate degrees in CTE fields, prior to January 1, 2026, to offer a corresponding teacher preparation program and recommend the issuance of designated subjects teacher credentials in the CTE field associated with the baccalaureate degree. This bill would further authorize the issuance of a preliminary designated subjects credential with a baccalaureate degree instead of 3,000 hours of professional experience. It is the intent of the Legislature to create a pilot program for community colleges to be authorized to offer programs of personalized preparation for designated subjects credentials in career and technical education, and not teacher preparation programs for other teaching credentials.

The list of CCCs and the baccalaureate degrees approved prior to January 1, 2026, are as follows:

Community College	Baccalaureate Degree	Possible Corresponding CTE Credential
Antelope Valley College	Airframe Manufacturing Technology	Transportation or Engineering and Architecture
Antelope Valley College	Respiratory Care	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Bakersfield College	Industrial Automation	Manufacturing and Product Development
Bakersfield College	Research Laboratory Technology	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Cerritos College	Dental Hygiene	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
College of the Canyons	Building Performance	Building and Construction Trades
Crafton Hills College	Respiratory Care	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Cypress College	Mortuary Science	
DeAnza College	Automotive Technology Management	Transportation or Engineering and Architecture
East Los Angeles College	Respiratory Care	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
El Camino College	Respiratory Care	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Feather River College	Equine and Ranch Management	Agriculture and Natural Resources
Feather River College	Ecosystem Restoration and Applied Fire	Agriculture and Natural Resources or Public Services
Foothill College	Dental Hygiene	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Foothill College	Respiratory Care	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Foothill College	Building Trades Management	Building and Construction Trades
Fresno College	Dental Hygiene	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Fullerton College	Drone and Autonomous Systems	
Hartnell College	Respiratory Care	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Los Angeles Mission College	Biomanufacturing	Manufacturing and Product Development
Los Angeles Pierce College	Biomanufacturing	Manufacturing and Product Development
Mira Costa College	Biomanufacturing	Manufacturing and Product Development
Modesto College	Respiratory Care	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Moorpark College	Biomanufacturing	Manufacturing and Product Development
Moreno Valley College	Emergency Management	Public Services
Mt. San Antonio College	Histotechnology	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Oxnard College	Dental Hygiene	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Oxnard College	Applied Advocacy and Organizing	Public Services
Rio Hondo College	Automotive Technology	Transportation or Engineering and Architecture
Rio Hondo College	Electronic Digital Instrument	Information and Communications Technologies

San Bernardino College	Water Resource Management	Agriculture and Natural Resources or Public Services
San Diego Mesa College	Health Information Management	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
San Diego Mesa College	Physical Therapy Assistant	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
San Diego Miramar College	Public Safety Management	Public Services
Santa Ana College	Occupational Studies	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Santa Ana College	Paralegal Studies	Public Services
Santa Barbara City College	Health Information Management	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Skyline College	Respiratory Care	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Solano College	Biomanufacturing	Manufacturing and Product Development
Taft College	Dental Hygiene Administration	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
Ventura College	Automotive Career Education	Transportation or Engineering and Architecture
West Los Angeles College	Dental Hygiene	Health Sciences and Medical Technology
West Los Angeles College	Aviation Maintenance Technology: Avionics	Transportation or Engineering and Architecture

Do CCC faculty have the same qualifications as CSU and UC faculty? Faculty at the CSU and the UC are required to have doctoral degrees. According to the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 53410, in order to teach upper division courses at the California Community College, a faculty member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- 1) Master's degree in the discipline of the faculty member's assignment;
- 2) Master's degree in a discipline reasonably related to the faculty member's assignment and possession of a bachelor's degree in the discipline of the faculty member's assignment;
- 3) If a master's degree is not generally expected or available in the discipline of the faculty member's assignment – then the faculty member is to either have a master's degree in a discipline related to the teaching assignment and two years of professional experience or a bachelor's degree related to the teaching assignment and six years of professional experience; or,
- 4) If a master's degree in the discipline is not generally expected or available and where a related master's or bachelor's degree is not generally expected or available; possession of either is acceptable: a) Any master's degree and two years of professional experience; or b) Any bachelor's degree and six years of professional experience.

The designated subjects CTE credential is unique in that it does not require a baccalaureate degree. With this in mind, a community college faculty member with a baccalaureate degree and professional experience or a master's degree may be appropriate to teach coursework leading to a preliminary or clear CTE designated subjects teaching credential. ***The Committee may wish to consider*** whether it would be appropriate for community college faculty with a baccalaureate degree or master's degree to teach coursework in teacher preparation that would lead to the

issuance of other teaching credentials, including multiple subject and single subject credentials, which are currently taught by doctoral level faculty at the CSU, UC and private colleges.

Current credential requirements for the designated subjects CTE credential. The chart below delineates the requirements for the preliminary and clear designated subjects CTE credential.

Designated Subjects CTE Credential

Preliminary Credential Requirements

- 3 years of work experience in the CTE industry sector (or alternative training/education)
- High School Diploma (No Bachelor's degree required)

Clear Credential Requirements

- 9-unit (or 135-hour PD) CTE program course of study covering CTE standards 8-16
- 2 years of successful CTE teaching with program support and supervision.

Candidates not required to pass for either credential: Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA), Reading Instruction exam (RICA), Subject Matter Competence, or Basic Skills Assessment

What does misassignment data tell us about teacher shortage areas? Misassignments can be the first indicator of a teacher shortage, as they represent instances where a LEA was required to employ an educator who does not hold the appropriate credential for the assignment.

There is evidence that a shortage of CTE credential holders in more than one industry sector exists for CTE Pathway programs in grades 7-12. CTE courses within the Arts, Media, and Entertainment sector were by far the most misassigned content area, with nearly 30% of all CTE teacher misassignments, followed by more than 13% in medical sciences and 8% in information technology. The chart below demonstrates the percentage of misassigned teachers by CTE industry sector.

Figure 10: Misassigned Courses by Industry Sector

CTE Industry Sector Misassignments		
Broad Subject	Courses	Percent of Total
Arts, Media, and Entertainment	2,309	29.32%
Health Science and Medical Technology	1,055	13.40%
Information and Communication Technology	640	8.13%
Engineering and Architecture	560	7.11%
Public Service	514	6.53%
Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation	507	6.44%
Transportation	444	5.64%
Building and Construction Trades	385	4.89%
Business and Finance	309	3.92%
Agriculture and Natural Resources	287	3.64%
Education, Child Development, and Family Services	265	3.37%
Manufacturing and Product Development	198	2.51%
Marketing, Sales, and Service	178	2.26%
Fashion and Interior Design	102	1.30%
Energy, Environment, and Utilities	64	0.81%
Work Experience Education	57	0.72%
Grand Total	7,874	100.00%

Misassigned Courses and Percent of Total broken down by Industry Sector. Misassignments include 2019-20 Charter, Corrected MA, Misassigned, None and Vacancies determinations.

(Source: CTC)

Recommended committee amendment. Staff recommends the bill be amended as follows:

- 1) Technical and conforming amendment to clarify that the pilot program is an exception to the existing authorization of the CTC.

Related legislation. AB 644 (Alvarez) of the 2025-26 Session would authorize the Chancellor of the CCC to allow the Southwestern Community College District (SWCCD) to offer no more than four workforce-aligned baccalaureate degree programs and requires reports to be conducted by the LAO on the student success outcomes of the programs.

AB 2053 (Ta) of the 2025-26 Session would authorize Coast Community College District to offer a baccalaureate degree in cybersecurity that may be duplicative of degrees offered at the CSU and the UC.

AB 2136 (Pacheco) of the 2025-26 Session would authorize Cerritos Community College District to offer baccalaureate degrees in public safety management, paralegal studies, and

automotive technology, even if they are duplicative of programs currently offered by the CSU and the UC.

AB 2301 (Soria) of the 2025-26 Session would authorize 10 community colleges, as authorized by the Board of Governors of the CCCs, to offer a baccalaureate in Nursing degree.

AB 2694 (Alvarez) of the 2025-26 Session would prohibit a community college district baccalaureate degree program from offering a baccalaureate degree program or program curricula substantially similar to a baccalaureate degree program offered by the CSU or the UC within the geographic region served by the community college district, except where the CSU or the UC does not enroll students from that geographic region in the same degree pathway or where documented unmet regional workforce needs justify the program.

AB 960 (Cabaldon) of the 2025-26 Session would prohibit a community college district from offering a baccalaureate degree program or program curricula already offered by the UC, or a campus of the CSU whose local admission area includes, or overlaps with, the territory of the community college district, unless the CSU program has been impacted for 3 consecutive years before the date the program is approved.

AB 320 (Medina), Chapter 663, Statutes of 2021, enables the CTC to define, for purposes of determining the criteria for teaching credentials, regionally accredited institutions of higher education (IHE) as an IHE who was accredited by a regional accrediting agency as defined, or an IHE who received full accreditation status after five years of being conferred a reaccreditation status.

AB 927 (Medina), Chapter 565, Statutes of 2021, authorizes the community colleges to establish baccalaureate degree program.

SB 577 (Dodd), Chapter 603, Statutes of 2018, establishes the California Community College (CCC) Teacher Credentialing Partnership Pilot Program, awarding grants to collaboratives of one or more teacher-credentialing higher education institutions partnering with one or more community colleges for the purpose of offering teacher credentialing programs at community colleges.

SB 850 (Block), Chapter 747, Statutes of 2014, establishes the pilot program for community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. The pilot program was to permit community college districts to offer a baccalaureate degree in a restricted manner and only permitted 15 districts to participate in the program. The qualifying districts were only be permitted to offer one baccalaureate degree from 2017-2018 to 2022-2023. Authorized the LAO to conduct two reports on the successful outcomes of the pilot program.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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