

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2206 (Fong)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Prohibits California Community Colleges (CCCs) from serving as teacher preparation institutions for purposes of recommending candidates for teaching credentials; and, clarifies how baccalaureate degrees earned through CCC baccalaureate degree programs satisfy credentialing requirements.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Remove the CCC designated subjects career technical education credential pilot program and corresponding Legislative Analyst's Office report.
- 2) Clarify that the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) may approve any regionally accredited institution of higher education to recommend issuance of credentials, other than a community college.
- 3) Prohibit a CCC or CCC district from offering an integrated teacher preparation program that allows candidates to complete professional preparation concurrently with subject matter preparation while earning a bachelor's degree.

COMMENTS

Should CCC's provide teacher preparation? The policy question posed by this bill is whether CCCs should be permitted to serve as teacher preparation institutions. This question involves the long-standing division of responsibilities among the state's public higher education segments.

California's Master Plan for Higher Education, as reflected in the Donahoe Higher Education Act, assigns distinct missions to the state's public higher education segments. The CCCs have historically focused on lower-division instruction, transfer preparation, remedial education, and CTE. The CSU has primary responsibility for undergraduate and graduate instruction through the master's degree, including teacher education. The UC provides undergraduate and graduate instruction and serves as the state's primary research institution. While the Legislature has periodically authorized exceptions to these traditional roles, those exceptions have generally been explicit, limited, and accompanied by guardrails intended to avoid unnecessary duplication among the segments.

History of CCC baccalaureate authority and the emergence of this issue. Community colleges were not historically authorized to award baccalaureate degrees. SB 850 (Block, Chapter 747, Statutes of 2014) created a limited pilot program allowing up to 15 community college districts to offer one baccalaureate degree each in workforce-oriented fields, provided those programs did not duplicate baccalaureate programs offered by CSU or UC. AB 927 (Medina, Chapter 565, Statutes of 2021) subsequently made the CCC baccalaureate degree authority permanent and authorized the Board of Governors to approve additional programs, subject to consultation with CSU, UC, and independent institutions and continued limitations on duplication.

Restoring legislative control over segment expansion. This bill creates guardrails, so that any expansion of CCC authority into teacher preparation will occur only through explicit legislative authorization, not through an unintended interaction between credentialing statutes and the relatively new CCC baccalaureate degree authority.

This approach is consistent with how the Legislature has historically treated major deviations from segment roles. CCC baccalaureate degrees were authorized first through a limited pilot and then through permanent statutory authority. CSU doctoral degrees have similarly been authorized through specific legislation. In each instance, the Legislature made an affirmative policy decision to allow a segment to expand beyond its traditional mission, and attached conditions to preserve the basic structure of California's higher education system.

Viewed through that lens, the clarification portion of AB 2206 may be seen as an effort to preserve the Legislature's role in deciding whether and how CCCs should enter teacher preparation. Without this bill, CCCs that offer baccalaureate degrees may argue that they are already eligible to seek CTC approval to offer any type of teacher preparation program.

According to the Author

In the last decade, the CCC and the CSU have expanded the type of degree programs they offer to students. The CCC received authorization to offer career technical baccalaureate degree programs, and the CSU is permitted to offer doctoral programs. Both systems were authorized to offer degree programs outside of their codified missions in the Education Code with the understanding there would be no duplication. AB 2206 expands upon this understanding by providing clarity as to which of the public higher education systems are authorized to offer teacher preparation programs. The measure provides parity between the CCC and CSU by recognizing that a community college baccalaureate degree meets the minimum educational requirement for a teacher credential when a baccalaureate degree is required. As the Chair of the Higher Education Committee, providing equal access and quality education for students is imperative and this measure furthers this purpose by expanding the pool of qualified candidates for teacher credential while preserving quality teacher preparation programs.

Arguments in Support

The California Federation of Teachers states, "Under current law, the California Community Colleges (CCC) are not authorized by the Donahoe Higher Education Act to offer teacher preparation programs: only, the California State University and the University of California are authorized to do so. Despite this, a community college has already begun the process of receiving permission from the Commission to offer a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program. AB 2206 removes the drafting mistake that authorized the community college to offer the program, and removes the authorization that any baccalaureate degree program offered by the CCC qualifies a student for any teacher credential."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the bill's prohibition is not expected to result in additional costs to the state or local community college districts.

VOTES:**ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0**

YES: Patel, Hoover, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Pellerin, Zbur

ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 10-0-0

YES: Fong, DeMaio, Boerner, Macedo, Jackson, Muratsuchi, Patel, Ramos, Sharp-Collins, Tangipa

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0-2

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

VERSION: August 21, 2026

CONSULTANT: Chelsea Kelley / ED. / (916) 319-2087

FN: 0004308