

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2652 (Sharp-Collins) – As Amended April 13, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill allows a world language single subject teaching credential candidate or a bilingual authorization candidate attempting to demonstrate competency in a language other than one for which the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) administers an subject matter examination to do so by successfully completing a comparable postsecondary language proficiency assessment, as prescribed.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable costs to the CTC.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

California is one of the most diverse places in the world. However, our world language courses offered to students do not reflect the reality of our state. Currently, California only offers testing for a select group of languages. This is creating a shortage in credentialing opportunities that disproportionately impacts multilingual communities where dual immersion programs are essential for English learners and heritage language speakers. AB 2652 allows teachers to take language credentialing exams that California does not offer that have been approved by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

2) **Background.** Teaching credential candidates wishing to demonstrate language proficiency and earn their world language teaching credential must do so by passing one of the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) in the target language, or an assessment developed by their preparation institution. Additionally, candidates may demonstrate competency through a completion of a CTC-approved subject matter program, earning a Bachelor's degree in the target language, coursework evaluation, or a combination subject matter, CSET and coursework evaluation. Teachers can also earn a bilingual authorization which allows holders to provide English Language Development (ELD), instruction for primary language development, Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE), and content instruction delivered in primary language. To earn a bilingual authorization, individuals must possess a California teaching credential, an English

Authorization, and have demonstrated proficiency in a world language. However, not all languages represented by the diverse population in California are represented by existing teacher preparation programs and CTC-approved assessments, meaning some bilingual teaching credential candidates may speak a language for which there is no world language credential or bilingual authorization pathway. This bill allows a teaching credential or bilingual authorization candidate to demonstrate world language proficiency through completion of a comparable postsecondary language proficiency assessment, including, but not limited to, those offered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). According to the Assembly Committee on Education analysis of this bill, CSET assessments only cover 23 languages while the ACTFL offers assessments in 99 languages.

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