
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 606
Author: Quirk-Silva (D)
Amended: 9/4/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/11/25
AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Laird
NO VOTE RECORDED: Gonzalez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-0, 5/8/25 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Certificated employees: professional services credential: out-of-state applicants

SOURCE: Association of California School Administrators
California Association of School Counselors
California Association of School Psychologists
California County Superintendents

DIGEST: This bill requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to issue a preliminary professional services credential with a specialization in pupil personnel services (PPS) to an out-of-state applicant who meets specified requirements.

Senate Floor amendments of 9/4/25 (1) revise the authority of the CTC to approve local educational agency (LEA) programs for a PPS by allowing LEA-run programs for any PPS specialization, but require that programs in any area other than child welfare and attendance be offered in partnership with a regionally accredited institution of higher education, and (2) remove the requirement for the CTC to post a publicly accessible checklist of credentialing requirements for out-of-state PPS applicants by August 1, 2026.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the minimum requirements for a services credential with a PPS specialization as a bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution, a fifth year of study, and any required professional preparation—including completion of a commission-approved program of supervised field experience or equivalent training. (Education Code (EC) § 44266)
- 2) Authorizes the holder of a PPS credential to provide school counseling, school psychology, child welfare and attendance services, and school social work, among other services, at all grade levels. (EC § 44266)
- 3) Requires the CTC to award credentials across categories such as basic teaching, adult and vocational education, specialty instruction, and school services, including PPS roles. (EDC § 44275)

This bill:

- 1) Clarifies that for a services credential with a specialization in PPS in any area other than the area of child welfare and attendance, a program of professional preparation shall be in partnership with a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
- 2) Establishes a preliminary professional services credential with a PPS specialization for out-of-state candidates who:
 - a) Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution,
 - b) Possess a valid out-of-state PPS credential in school counseling, school social work, or school psychology,
 - c) Have passed a criminal background check pursuant to California law.
- 3) Specifies that the preliminary credential:
 - a) Is valid for two years,
 - b) May be renewed once for an additional two years if the holder demonstrates satisfactory progress as determined by the employing LEA.

- 4) Authorizes the CTC to approve a professional preparation program for PPS credentials offered by an LEA, provided it meets CTC standards of quality and effectiveness.

Comments

- 1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, “As a teacher for over 30 years, I know how important our support staff specialists are in helping students thrive. Every student deserves access to the mental health and academic support they need to succeed. California’s outdated credentialing process should not stand in the way of getting trained professionals into our schools. AB 606 breaks down unnecessary barriers, streamlines hiring, and ensures students, especially in rural and underserved communities, receive the support they deserve.”
- 2) *Creates credential parity for PPS roles.* California currently allows out-of-state teachers to receive a preliminary credential while completing remaining California-specific requirements. This bill extends that two-tier structure to PPS roles, such as school counselors, psychologists, and social workers, who currently must submit extensive documentation or pursue additional coursework before employment. The change could eliminate hiring delays and reduce administrative burdens for both candidates and LEAs.
- 3) *Addresses mental health workforce shortages.* California falls far short of nationally recommended staffing levels for school-based mental health professionals. According to 2018-19 data from the California Department of Education:
 - a) Counselor-to-student ratio was 576:1 (recommended: 250:1),
 - b) Psychologist ratio was 948:1 (recommended: 500–700:1),
 - c) Social worker ratio was 6,936:1 (recommended: 250:1),
 - d) Nurse ratio was 2,205:1 (recommended: 750:1).

This bill’s pathway could help bring trained professionals into schools faster—particularly in rural or underserved areas—without compromising credential quality, provided local oversight and renewal standards are robust.

- 4) *Aligns with broader state initiatives.* The state has invested heavily in student mental health through efforts such as the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative and grant-funded partnerships between schools and community health providers. Increasing the pool of PPS-credentialed staff is a logical and needed complement to those investments.
- 5) *Maintains appropriate safeguards.* By requiring a valid out-of-state credential, a background check, and LEA-determined progress standards for renewal, this bill aims to strike a balance between accessibility and rigor. The CTC's checklist requirement should also improve transparency and efficiency in the application process.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the CTC estimates General Fund costs of \$439,000 in the first year and ongoing costs of \$433,000 and 3.0 positions for the creation of a new preliminary credential. This work includes the development of new standards and performance expectations, integrating the new credential into the Commission's existing accreditation and credential systems, providing technical support for applicants and local educational agencies (LEAs), and the processing of additional applications.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/4/25)

Association of California School Administrators (co-source)
 California Association of School Counselors (co-source)
 California Association of School Psychologists (co-source)
 California County Superintendents (co-source)
 Alameda County Office of Education
 California Association of School Business Officials
 California Charter Schools Association
 California School Nurses Organization
 Los Angeles Unified School District
 Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools
 San Francisco Unified School District
 School Employers Association of California
 SELPA Administrators of California
 Tulare County Office of Education

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/4/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-0, 5/8/25

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

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Boerner, Carrillo, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Irwin, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Wallis

Prepared by: Ian Johnson / ED. / (916) 651-4105
9/8/25 21:16:24

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