

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

CSA1 Bill Id:AB 959 Author:(Hadwick)

As Amended Ver:September 05, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Authorizes a county office of education (COE), a school district, or a regionally accredited institution of higher education (IHE) to offer a one-year internship program for candidates for a preliminary administrative credential, and requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to examine its preservice, professional development, and supervision requirements for these internship programs when it next considers administrative services credential pathways.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Require the CTC to examine its preservice, professional development, and supervision requirements for administrator services credential internship programs when it next considers administrative services credential pathways.
- 2) Add language to prevent chaptering out AB 1009 of this Session.

COMMENTS

Current law does not specify which institutions may operate administrative services intern programs; CTC's practice has been to approve only IHE programs. Current law requires candidates for an administrative credential to either complete a program of professional preparation in administrative services approved by the CTC, or a one-year internship in a program of supervised training in administrative services, approved by the CTC as satisfying the requirements for the preliminary services credential with a specialization in administrative services. The law does not specify which institutions may offer either preparation programs or internship programs. According to the CTC, since the statute does not explicitly permit LEAs to operate these programs, while it does for other internship programs, they are unable to authorize LEAs to operate internship programs for this credential. This bill aims to enable the CTC to authorize such programs.

What is an administrative services internship program? Individuals seeking to earn administrative credentials in California must meet a number of requirements, including having earned a teaching or other specified credential, and having completed three years of successful teaching, and completing a program of professional preparation or an internship meeting the standards of the CTC. Administrative internship programs allow a candidate to work as an administrator while earning their credential. This is akin to district internship programs for teachers, which allow the candidate to work as a teacher while earning their credential.

According to the CTC's invaluable 419-page history of educator credentialing in California, *A History of Policies and Forces Shaping California Teacher Credentialing*, the idea of administrator internship programs dates to the 1977 Assembly Education Committee Task Force on the subject of the elementary and secondary school principalship. The Task Force's report led the CTC to support principal internship programs, and also led to legislation in 1981 creating the first two-tier credential of any kind.

According to research shared by the author, administrator internship programs have shown promise in increasing the number of qualified administrators in rural areas (McConnell, 2021), and that research comparing traditional and alternative principal preparation programs indicated no significant difference in student outcomes (Pannell, 2015).

Internship not a widely used pathway for this credential, but growing. According to data from the CTC, intern credentials increased in issuance from 67 in 2010-11 to 191 in 2022-23. In 2022-23, there was a total of 526 preliminary administrative services credentials issued (prepared by any route).

According to the Author

"California's students deserve strong, well-prepared school leaders who can foster positive learning environments and drive student success. Assembly Bill 959 ensures aspiring administrators can pursue high-quality, localized training by requiring allowing county offices of education and school districts to offer administrative credentialing internships. By including school districts in this amendment, we expand access to well-supervised, high-quality training opportunities while maintaining the rigorous standards necessary for effective leadership preparation.

This bill strengthens the pipeline of qualified administrators, particularly in underserved and rural communities, by ensuring that school districts and county offices of education along with accredited higher education institutions—can offer structured, hands-on training programs. By doing so, we help reduce administrator turnover, support equity in leadership preparation, and create a more accessible, effective pathway for aspiring school leaders. Rather than restricting opportunities, AB 959 ensures that all candidates receive the comprehensive preparation needed to succeed in today's educational landscape and improve outcomes for California's students."

Arguments in Support

The Placer County Office of Education writes, "County offices of education (COEs) and school districts often play major roles in their regions' teacher and administrator preparation, and many already offer both intern programs for teachers, and traditional programs for administrators. Due to interpretation of current law, these local educational agencies are prevented from offering preliminary administrative credential candidates the important and highly-sought after opportunity to learn while you earn through an internship program. Allowing COEs and districts to run these programs will foster an environment where teacher leaders can stay close to home for their administrative preparation in a context that is highly localized, contributing to a 'grow your own' model that has been shown to be highly effective in reducing turnover.

While the ongoing teacher shortage has, rightfully, received a great deal of focus over recent years, we must also take advantage of common-sense opportunities to improve the administrator pipeline. AB 959 does just that, and for that reason we are pleased to support and co-sponsor."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) The CTC estimates unknown, but potentially significant General Fund costs to review and approve an increased number of new one-year internship programs with approximately 1,000

school districts and COEs that would be authorized to provide them as a result of this measure.

- 2) This bill could result in additional, unknown Proposition 98 General Fund costs for school districts and COEs that elect to develop and provide the internship programs.

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

YES: Muratsuchi, Hoover, Addis, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Patel

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0-1

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, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, 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: Lee

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