

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1034

Introduced by Assembly Member Ávila Farías

February 20, 2025

An act to ~~add Section 44320.7 to~~ *amend Section 44259* of the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 1034, as amended, Ávila Farías. Teacher credentialing: *programs of professional preparation: youth mental health.*

~~Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards for the issuance and renewal of credentials. Existing law requires the commission to ensure that an accredited program of professional preparation for multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching credentials includes, among other things, standards established by the commission for the preparation of teachers for all pupils, as provided.~~

~~This bill would require, when the above-described standards are next revised on or after January 1, 2026, the commission to include a requirement that beginning teachers have a basic understanding of youth mental health.~~

~~Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards for the issuance and renewal of credentials. Existing law requires, as a minimum requirement for a preliminary multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching credential, the satisfactory completion of a program of professional preparation that includes a teaching performance assessment that meets specified requirements and has been approved by the commission, as provided.~~

that, among other things, has been accredited by the Committee on Accreditation on the basis of standards of program quality and effectiveness that have been adopted by the commission and provides specified experience including, among other experience health education, including study of nutrition, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the physiological and sociological effects of the abuse of alcohol, narcotics, and drugs and the use of tobacco.

~~This bill would require, when those above-described assessments are next revised on or after January 1, 2026, the commission to include an assessment of a teacher credential candidate's knowledge of youth mental health.~~ *require that health education experience to also include a basic understanding of youth mental health.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
2 *following:*
3 (1) *Mental health is critical to overall health, well-being, and*
4 *academic success.*
5 (2) *Mental health challenges affect all age groups, races,*
6 *ethnicities, and socioeconomic classes.*
7 (3) *Millions of Californians, including at least one in five youths,*
8 *live with mental health challenges and millions more are affected*
9 *by the mental health challenges of someone else, such as a close*
10 *friend or family member.*
11 (4) *Mental health education is one of the best ways to increase*
12 *awareness and the seeking of help, while also reducing the stigma*
13 *associated with mental health challenges.*
14 (5) *The public education system is the most efficient and effective*
15 *setting for providing this education to all youth.*
16 (b) *Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this*
17 *act to ensure that all California teachers have received mental*
18 *health training before entering the classroom.*
19 SEC. 2. *Section 44259 of the Education Code is amended to*
20 *read:*
21 44259. (a) *Except as provided in clauses (i) and (iii) of*
22 *subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), a program*
23 *of professional preparation for multiple or single subject teaching*

1 credentials shall not include more than two years of full-time study
2 of professional preparation.

3 (b) The minimum requirements for the preliminary multiple
4 subject, single subject, or education specialist teaching credential
5 are all of the following:

6 (1) A baccalaureate degree or higher degree from a regionally
7 accredited institution of higher education. Except as provided in
8 subdivision (c) of Section 44227, for single subject teaching
9 credentials, the baccalaureate degree shall not be in professional
10 education. The commission shall encourage regionally accredited
11 institutions of higher education to offer undergraduate minors in
12 education and special education to students who intend to become
13 single subject credentialed teachers.

14 (2) [Reserved]

15 (3) (A) Satisfactory completion of a program of professional
16 preparation that has been accredited by the Committee on
17 Accreditation on the basis of standards of program quality and
18 effectiveness that have been adopted by the commission. In
19 accordance with the commission's assessment and performance
20 standards, a program shall include a teaching performance
21 assessment as set forth in Section 44320.2 that is aligned with the
22 California Standards for the Teaching Profession. The commission
23 shall ensure that a candidate recommended for a credential or
24 certificate has demonstrated satisfactory ability to assist pupils to
25 meet or exceed academic content and performance standards for
26 pupils adopted by the state board. Programs that meet this
27 requirement for professional preparation shall include any of the
28 following:

29 (i) Integrated programs of subject matter preparation and
30 professional preparation pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section
31 44259.1.

32 (ii) Postbaccalaureate programs of professional preparation,
33 pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 44259.1.

34 (iii) Internship programs of professional preparation, pursuant
35 to Section 44321, Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 44325),
36 Article 11 (commencing with Section 44380), and Article 3
37 (commencing with Section 44450) of Chapter 3.

38 (iv) Degree programs offered pursuant to Article 5 (commencing
39 with Section 78060) of Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title
40 3.

(B) A program of professional preparation pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall provide experience that addresses all of the following:

(i) Health education, including *a basic understanding of youth mental health*, study of nutrition, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the physiological and sociological effects of the abuse of alcohol, narcotics, and drugs and the use of tobacco. Training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation shall also meet the standards established by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.

(ii) Field experience in methods of delivering appropriate educational services to pupils with exceptional needs in regular education programs.

(iii) Advanced computer-based technology, including the uses of technology in educational settings.

(4) Study of effective means of teaching literacy, including, but not limited to, the study of reading as described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), and evidence-based means of teaching foundational reading skills in print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, and fluency to all pupils, including tiered supports for pupils with reading difficulties, English learners, and pupils with exceptional needs. The study of effective means of teaching literacy shall be in accordance with the commission's standards of program quality and effectiveness and current teaching performance expectations, shall be aligned to the current English Language Arts/English Language Development (ELA/ELD) Framework adopted by the state board, and shall incorporate the program guidelines for dyslexia developed pursuant to Section 56335. The study of reading shall meet the following requirements:

(A) Commencing January 1, 1997, satisfactory completion of comprehensive reading instruction that is research based and includes all of the following:

(i) The study of organized, systematic, explicit skills including phonemic awareness, direct, systematic, explicit phonics, and decoding skills.

(ii) A strong literature, language, and comprehension component with a balance of oral and written language.

(iii) Ongoing diagnostic techniques that inform teaching and assessment.

(iv) Early intervention techniques.

1 (v) Guided practice in a clinical setting.

2 (B) For purposes of this section, “direct, systematic, explicit
3 phonics” means phonemic awareness, spelling patterns, the direct
4 instruction of sound/symbol codes and practice in connected text,
5 and the relationship of direct, systematic, explicit phonics to the
6 components set forth in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of subparagraph
7 (A).

8 (C) A program for the multiple subject teaching credential and
9 the education specialist teaching credential also shall include the
10 study of integrated methods of teaching language arts.

11 (5) (A) Verification of subject matter competence, demonstrated
12 through one of the following methods:

13 (i) Completion of a subject matter program approved by the
14 commission on the basis of standards of program quality and
15 effectiveness pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section
16 44310).

17 (ii) Passage of a subject matter examination pursuant to Article
18 5 (commencing with Section 44280).

19 (iii) Successful completion of coursework at one or more
20 regionally accredited institutions of higher education that addresses
21 each of the domains of the subject matter requirements adopted
22 by the commission in the content area of the credential pursuant
23 to Section 44282, as verified by a commission-approved program
24 of professional preparation. Coursework completed at a community
25 or junior college that is regionally accredited by an accrediting
26 agency listed in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision
27 (g) of Section 44203 or by the Accrediting Commission for
28 Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of
29 Schools and Colleges may count for purposes of this clause.

30 (iv) Successful completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree
31 from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with
32 the following, as applicable:

33 (I) For single subject credentials, a major in one of the subject
34 areas in which the commission credentials candidates.

35 (II) For multiple subject credentials, a liberal studies major or
36 other degree that includes coursework in the content areas pursuant
37 to subdivision (b) of Section 44282.

38 (III) For education specialist credentials, either a major in one
39 of the subject areas in which the commission credentials candidates

1 or a liberal studies or other major that includes coursework in the
2 content areas pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 44282.

3 (v) Demonstration that the candidate, through a combination of
4 the methods described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) in whole or in
5 part, has met or exceeded each of the domains of the subject matter
6 requirements adopted by the commission in the content area of the
7 credential pursuant to Section 44282 for multiple and single subject
8 credentials, or pursuant to Section 44265 for education specialist
9 credentials.

10 (B) (i) The commission shall ensure that subject matter
11 standards and examinations are aligned with the academic content
12 and performance standards for pupils adopted by the state board.

13 (ii) The commission shall maintain the subject matter domains
14 that include both broad content areas to support coursework review
15 pursuant to clause (iii) of subparagraph (A) and specific content
16 elements to delineate subject matter examination specifications
17 pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) and Article 5
18 (commencing with Section 44280).

19 (6) Demonstration of a knowledge of the principles and
20 provisions of the Constitution of the United States pursuant to
21 Section 44335.

22 (7) Demonstration, in accordance with the commission's
23 standards of program quality and effectiveness, of basic
24 competency in the use of computers in the classroom as determined
25 by one of the following:

26 (A) Successful completion of a commission-approved program
27 or course.

28 (B) Successful passage of an assessment that is developed,
29 approved, and administered by the commission.

30 (c) The minimum requirements for the clear multiple or single
31 subject teaching credential shall include all of the following
32 requirements:

33 (1) Possession of a valid preliminary teaching credential, as
34 prescribed in subdivision (b), possession of a valid equivalent
35 credential or certificate, or completion of equivalent requirements
36 as determined by the commission.

37 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), completion of a
38 program of beginning teacher induction, including either of the
39 following:

1 (A) A program of beginning teacher induction that is provided
2 by one or more local educational agencies and has been approved
3 by the commission on the basis of initial review and periodic
4 evaluations of the program in relation to appropriate standards of
5 credential program quality and effectiveness that have been adopted
6 by the commission pursuant to this subdivision. The program
7 standards shall encourage innovation and experimentation in the
8 continuous preparation and induction of beginning teachers.

9 (B) A program of beginning teacher induction that is sponsored
10 by a regionally accredited institution of higher education in
11 cooperation with one or more local school districts, that addresses
12 the individual professional needs of beginning teachers and meets
13 the commission's standards of induction. The commission shall
14 ensure that preparation and induction programs that qualify
15 candidates for professional credentials extend and refine each
16 beginning teacher's professional skills in relation to the California
17 Standards for the Teaching Profession and the academic content
18 and performance standards for pupils adopted by the state board.

19 (3) (A) If a candidate satisfies the requirements of subdivision
20 (b) through completion of an accredited internship program of
21 professional preparation, and if that internship program fulfills
22 induction standards and is approved as set forth in this subdivision,
23 the commission shall determine that the candidate has fulfilled the
24 requirements of paragraph (2).

25 (B) If an approved induction program is verified as unavailable
26 to a beginning teacher, the commission shall accept completion
27 of an approved clear credential program after completion of a
28 baccalaureate degree at a regionally accredited institution of higher
29 education as fulfilling the requirements of paragraph (2). The
30 commission shall adopt regulations to implement this subparagraph.

31 (d) The commission shall develop and implement standards of
32 program quality and effectiveness that provide for the areas of
33 application listed in clauses (i) to (iii), inclusive, of subparagraph
34 (B) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), starting in professional
35 preparation and continuing through induction.

36 (e) A credential that was issued before January 1, 1993, shall
37 remain in force as long as it is valid under the laws and regulations
38 that were in effect on the date it was issued. The commission shall
39 not, by regulation, invalidate an otherwise valid credential, unless
40 it issues to the holder of the credential, in substitution, a new

1 credential authorized by another provision in this chapter that is
2 no more restrictive than the credential for which it was substituted
3 with respect to the kind of service authorized and the grades,
4 classes, or types of schools in which it authorizes service.

5 (f) A credential program that is approved by the commission
6 shall not deny an individual access to that program solely on the
7 grounds that the individual obtained a teaching credential through
8 completion of an internship program when that internship program
9 has been accredited by the commission.

10 (g) Notwithstanding this section, persons who were performing
11 teaching services as of January 1, 1999, pursuant to the language
12 of this section that was in effect before that date, may continue to
13 perform those services without complying with any requirements
14 that may be added by the amendments adding this subdivision.

15 (h) Paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) does not apply to any person
16 who, as of January 1, 1997, holds a multiple or single subject
17 teaching credential, or to any person enrolled in a program of
18 professional preparation for a multiple or single subject teaching
19 credential as of January 1, 1997, who subsequently completes that
20 program. It is the intent of the Legislature that the requirements
21 of paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) apply only to persons who enter
22 a program of professional preparation on or after January 1, 1997.

23 SECTION 1. Section 44320.7 is added to the Education Code,
24 to read:

25 ~~44320.7. (a) When the commission's standards of program~~
26 ~~quality and effectiveness and current teaching performance~~
27 ~~expectations, established pursuant to Section 44225, are next~~
28 ~~revised, on or after January 1, 2026, the commission shall include~~
29 ~~a requirement that beginning teachers have a basic understanding~~
30 ~~of youth mental health.~~

31 ~~(b) When the commission's adopted teaching performance~~
32 ~~assessments, required by Sections 44320.2 and 44230.3, are next~~
33 ~~revised, on or after January 1, 2026, the commission shall include~~
34 ~~an assessment of a teacher credential candidate's knowledge of~~
35 ~~youth mental health.~~