

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 7, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1756**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla**

February 2, 2016

---

An act to amend Section 44259.1 of the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1756, as amended, Bonilla. Teacher credentialing: integrated programs of professional ~~preparation: field experiences: student teaching: preparation.~~

Existing law establishes minimum requirements for the issuance of a preliminary multiple or single subject teaching credential by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Among other requirements, existing law requires satisfactory completion of a program of professional preparation accredited by the Committee on Accreditation, but specifies that the program shall not include more than two years of full-time study, except for certain programs, including for integrated programs of subject matter and professional preparation. Existing law requires an integrated program of professional preparation to enable candidates for teaching credentials to engage in professional preparation, concurrently with subject matter preparation, while completing baccalaureate degrees at regionally accredited postsecondary institutions, and to provide opportunities for candidates to complete intensive field experiences in public elementary and secondary schools early in the undergraduate sequence.

This bill would require those intensive field experiences to include student teaching.

*This bill would authorize a postsecondary institution to offer a 4-year integrated program of professional preparation that allows a student to earn a baccalaureate degree and a preliminary multiple- or single-subject teaching credential, including student teaching requirements, concurrently and within 4 years of study.*

*This bill would, contingent upon appropriation of funds in the annual Budget Act or another statute, require the commission to develop and implement a program to award 40 grants of \$250,000 each to postsecondary institutions for the development of transition plans to guide the creation of 4-year integrated programs of professional preparation, as provided.*

*This bill would make findings and declarations relating to teachers and teacher credentialing.*

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3     (a) In mid-October 2015, after the school year had begun, there  
4 were more than 3,900 open teaching positions available in  
5 California.

6     (b) During the last decade, enrollment in teacher credentialing  
7 programs has dropped more than 70 percent.

8     (c) Most students who would like to become teachers are  
9 required to pay for a fifth year of school in order to earn their  
10 teaching credentials.

11     (d) This fifth year in school costs these students an additional  
12 year of tuition and living expenses and delays their entrance into  
13 the workforce.

14     (e) These students must also complete their student teaching  
15 requirements, and, during the period of student teaching, they have  
16 no earning potential because they work full time without  
17 compensation.

18     (f) Ensuring that a student can earn a baccalaureate degree  
19 and teaching credential and complete the required student teaching  
20 within four years will decrease the amount of debt students must  
21 take on in order to complete their teacher training.

1     (g) *Creating four-year, integrated programs of professional*  
2     *preparation will support students in a sustainable manner and for*  
3     *decades into the future.*

4     ~~SECTION 1.~~

5     SEC. 2. Section 44259.1 of the Education Code is amended to  
6     read:

7     44259.1. (a) (1) An integrated program of professional  
8     preparation shall enable candidates for teaching credentials to  
9     engage in professional preparation, concurrently with subject matter  
10    preparation, while completing baccalaureate degrees at regionally  
11    accredited postsecondary educational institutions. An integrated  
12    program shall provide opportunities for candidates to complete  
13    intensive field experiences, including student teaching, in public  
14    elementary and secondary schools early in the undergraduate  
15    sequence. The development and implementation of an integrated  
16    program shall be based on intensive collaboration among subject  
17    matter departments and education units within postsecondary  
18    educational institutions and local public elementary and secondary  
19    school districts.

20    (2) *A postsecondary institution may offer a four-year integrated*  
21    *program of professional preparation that allows a student to earn*  
22    *a baccalaureate degree and a preliminary multiple- or*  
23    *single-subject teaching credential, including student teaching*  
24    *requirements, concurrently and within four years of study.*

25    ~~(2)~~

26    (3) The commission shall encourage postsecondary educational  
27    institutions to offer integrated programs of professional preparation  
28    that follow the guidelines developed pursuant to this section. In  
29    approving integrated programs, the commission shall not  
30    compromise or reduce its standards of subject matter preparation  
31    pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 44310) or its  
32    standards of professional preparation pursuant to paragraph (3) of  
33    subdivision (b) of Section 44259.

34    (b) (1) Commencing with the 2005–06 school year, an  
35    integrated program offered by the California State University shall  
36    be designed to concurrently lead to a preliminary multiple subject  
37    or single subject teaching credential, and a baccalaureate degree.  
38    Recommendation for each shall be contingent upon satisfactory  
39    completion of the requirements for each.

(2) By July 1, 2004, the Chancellor of the California State University, in consultation with California State University faculty members, shall develop a framework defining appropriate balance for an integrated program of general education, subject matter preparation, and professional education courses, for both lower division and upper division students, including an appropriate range of units to be taken in professional education courses. In developing the framework, the Chancellor of the California State University and California State University faculty members shall consult with the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges on matters related to the effective and efficient use of, and appropriate role for, lower division coursework in an integrated program.

(c) (1) By January 1, 2005, the Chancellor of the California State University and the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall collaboratively ensure that both of the following occur:

(A) Lower division coursework completed by a community college student transferring to a California State University integrated program is articulated with the corresponding coursework of the California State University.

(B) The articulated community college lower division coursework is accepted as the equivalent to the coursework offered to students who enter that integrated program as freshman students.

(2) Commencing with the 2005–06 school year, each campus of the California State University shall invite the community colleges in its region that send significant numbers of transfer students to that campus to enter into articulation agreements. These articulation agreements shall be based on a fully transferable education curriculum that is developed pursuant to the framework developed under paragraph (2) of subdivision (b). Approval of one or more of the articulation agreements will enable the coursework of a community college student to be accepted as the equivalent to the coursework offered to students who enter that integrated program as freshman students.

(d) A postbaccalaureate program of professional preparation shall enable candidates for teaching credentials to commence and complete professional preparation after they have completed baccalaureate degrees at regionally accredited institutions. The development and implementation of a postbaccalaureate program

1 of professional preparation shall be based on intensive collaboration  
2 among the postsecondary educational institution and local public  
3 elementary and secondary school districts.

4 *(e) The commission shall develop and implement a program to*  
5 *award 40 one-year grants of two hundred fifty thousand dollars*  
6 *(\$250,000) each to postsecondary institutions for the development*  
7 *of transition plans to guide the creation four-year integrated*  
8 *programs of professional preparation.*

9 *(1) A postsecondary institution awarded a grant under this*  
10 *subdivision may use the transition plan to create a new four-year*  
11 *integrated program of professional preparation or to adapt an*  
12 *existing integrated program of professional preparation.*

13 *(2) A postsecondary institution awarded a grant under this*  
14 *section may partner with a California Community College to create*  
15 *a four-year integrated program of professional preparation.*

16 *(3) A postsecondary institution awarded a grant under this*  
17 *section may use grant funds for any proper purpose in support of*  
18 *planning for a four-year integrated program of professional*  
19 *preparation, including, but not limited to any of the following:*

20 *(A) To provide faculty release time to redesign existing courses.*

21 *(B) To provide program coordinators to assist in collaboration*  
22 *with subject-matter professors and pedagogy professors.*

23 *(C) To create summer courses for students in a four-year*  
24 *integrated program of professional preparation.*

25 *(4) The commission may reserve some of the 40 grants to*  
26 *provide a second grant to some or all of the postsecondary*  
27 *institutions awarded grants pursuant to this subdivision for the*  
28 *subsequent fiscal year.*

29 *(5) The requirements of this subdivision are contingent upon*  
30 *appropriation of funds for purposes of this subdivision in the*  
31 *annual Budget Act or another statute.*