
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular

Bill No: AB 1658 **Hearing Date:** June 12, 2019
Author: Carrillo
Version: April 11, 2019
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Ian Johnson

Subject: Teacher credentialing: adult education: workgroup.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to convene a workgroup to study issues relating to adult education teacher credentialing.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the minimum requirements for the three-year preliminary designated subjects adult education teaching credential to be all of the following:
 - a) For nonacademic subjects:
 - i) Three years of adequate, successful, and recent experience in, or a combination of experience and education in, the nonacademic subject to be named on the credential.
 - ii) Possession of a high school diploma or the passage of an equivalency examination as designated by the CTC.
 - b) For academic subjects:
 - i) A baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of postsecondary education that includes a minimum of 20 semester units, or the equivalent quarter units, of coursework in the subject to be named on the credential.
 - ii) Passage of the state basic skills requirement.
 - c) Satisfaction of the requirements for teacher fitness.
- 2) Establishes the minimum requirements for the five-year clear designated subjects adult education teaching credential to be all of the following:
 - a) A valid three-year preliminary designated subjects adult education teaching credential.

- b) Two years of successful teaching, or the equivalent, as authorized by the preliminary designated subjects adult education teaching credential.
 - c) A program of personalized preparation as approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
 - d) The study of health education as specified.
 - e) Completion of two semester units or passage of an examination on the principles and provisions of the United States Constitution.
 - f) The study of computer-based technology, including the uses of technology in educational settings. (Education Code 44260.3)
- 3) Requires the CTC and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to meet to review their current requirements for noncredit adult education and adult education instructors, and to develop and submit recommendations to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature for modifying or establishing reciprocity standards for instructors of adult education courses by July 1, 2016.

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires the CTC to convene a workgroup to study issues relating to adult education teacher credentialing, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
 - a) Reciprocity between community colleges and local educational agencies, and the qualifications for an adult education teacher.
 - b) The current processes and practices by which a person obtains a preliminary and clear designated subjects adult education teaching credential, and identified challenges within those processes that limit access, such as prohibitive costs and limited accessibility to professional coursework.
 - c) For classes required to obtain a clear designated subjects adult education teaching credential, accessibility, cost, and availability.
 - d) Impact of pupil attendance patterns on class scheduling and teacher assignments.
- 2) Specifies that the workgroup including all of the following:
 - a) Two adult education teachers employed by a school district or county office of education.
 - b) Two adult education instructors employed by a community college district.

- c) One school administrator responsible for overseeing adult education teachers.
 - d) One community college administrator responsible for overseeing adult education instructors.
 - e) One credential specialist employed by a school district.
- 3) Requires the workgroup to submit a report to the Legislature on its findings, with policy recommendations to improve reciprocity between community colleges and local educational agencies that ensure access and capacity for adult education pupils.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “Under the California Adult Education Program (CAEP), adult education is offered by both K-12 adult schools and community colleges. While the two sectors are collaborative, they have distinctly different requirements for educators who deliver classroom instruction within their respective systems. AB 1658 would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish a workgroup that includes representatives from the adult education field, labor, and more, to study issues related to adult education teacher credentialing.”
- 2) ***Adult education programs and funding.*** Adult schools are public schools offering free to low-cost classes for adults 18 and older. The primary purpose of adult education is to provide adults with the pre-collegiate knowledge and skills they need to participate in civic life and the workforce. Toward this end, most adult education course offerings are in three instructional areas: basic math and English, English as a second language, and career technical education.

Community colleges and school district-run adult schools are the primary providers of adult education. In addition, various other entities provide adult education, including community based organizations, libraries, and jails. Due to longstanding concerns with a lack of coordination among providers, the state budget created the Adult Education Block Grant in 2015-16, later renamed the Adult Education Program as part the 2018-19 budget. The program is currently appropriated \$526 million supporting consortia in various adult education regions.

As a condition of apportionment under the Adult Education Program, consortia must develop and annually update a three year plan containing, among other things, an evaluation of the educational needs of adults in the region, the funding available among all of the entities within the consortia, and actions to be taken to better integrate services offered and transitions into postsecondary education and the workforce.

- 3) ***LAO report on adult education credentialing.*** According to a 2018 Legislative Analysts Office report, “Despite teaching similar content, instructors from community colleges and adult schools are subject to different minimum qualifications for employment. Whereas both community colleges and adult

schools generally require instructors to have a bachelor's degree or higher, statute places higher requirements on adult school instructors. Specifically, adult school instructors also must have a state approved teaching credential. This inconsistency results in instructors who can teach at one segment but not the other. It also can make hiring instructors at adult schools more difficult than at community colleges.

We recommend the Legislature amend statute so that individuals no longer need a teaching credential to serve as instructors at adult schools. By aligning qualifications for instructors, instructors could readily teach adult education courses at both community colleges and adult schools. Moreover, the change could help adult schools in hiring teachers. If the state has concerns about the quality of adult education instructors, it could encourage consortia to provide professional development as needed.”

- 4) ***Arguments in support.*** According to the California Council for Adult Education and the Adult Education Administrators Association, “AB 1658 would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish a workgroup with involvement of representatives from the adult education field, labor, and more to further study issues related to adult education teacher credentialing with the goal of formally addressing key issues related to employment patterns, permanency, funding levels and reciprocity that serve as challenges for identifying qualified teachers to teach adult education in K12 adult schools and community colleges. The end goal would be to rely upon the workgroup’s discussions and more formal recommendations to address the issue of reciprocity between the two adult education delivery systems.”

SUPPORT

California Adult Education Administrators Association (co-sponsor)
California Council for Adult Education (co-sponsor)
Los Angeles Unified School District

OPPOSITION

None received

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