
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: AB 2285
Author: O'Donnell
Version: March 13, 2018
Urgency: No
Consultant: Ian Johnson

Hearing Date: May 9, 2018

Fiscal: Yes

Subject: Teacher credentialing: out-of-state prepared teachers: clear credential.

SUMMARY

This bill removes certain educational and professional development requirements for out-of-state prepared teachers seeking a clear teaching credential, and provides additional options for these teachers to demonstrate English Language development knowledge when seeking a secondary teaching credential.

BACKGROUND

Existing law requires the following for out-of-state prepared teachers to earn a clear California teaching credential:

- 1) Completion of 150 hours of activities that contribute to competence, performance, and effectiveness in the education profession, and that assist in meeting or exceeding standards for professional preparation, or possession of a master's degree or higher in a field related to the credential, or the equivalent semester units.
- 2) Demonstrated knowledge in English Language development by earning a Crosscultural, Language, and Academic Development (CLAD) certificate.

ANALYSIS

This bill removes the requirement for out-of-state prepared teachers seeking a clear teaching credential in California to earn a master's degree or complete 150 hours of professional development. Further, the bill allows out-of-state prepared teachers seeking a secondary credential in California to demonstrate English Language development knowledge by earning either the CLAD certificate or an English Learner Authorization.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) **Need for the bill.** According to the author, "School districts across California are experiencing a serious shortage of qualified teachers. Increased demand for K–12 teachers in California comes at a time when the supply of new teachers is at a 12-year low. Enrollment in educator preparation programs has dropped by more than 70% over the last decade, and has fallen below the number of estimated hires by school districts around the state."

Due to the critical teacher shortage, many California school districts are recruiting teachers from out-of-state. Transferring an out-of-state credential to a California teaching credential presents unnecessary barriers.”

“This bill would eliminate a double standard and streamline the credential process for out-of-state teachers.”

- 2) **LPI report.** The LPI’s 2016 report, “Addressing California’s Emerging Teacher Shortage: An Analysis of Sources and Solutions” included the following summary: “After many years of teacher layoffs in California, school districts around the state are hiring again. With the influx of new K-12 funding, districts are looking to lower student-teacher ratios and reinstate classes and programs that were reduced or eliminated during the Great Recession. However, mounting evidence indicates that teacher supply has not kept pace with the increased demand.” The report included the following findings:

- a) Enrollment in educator preparation programs has dropped by more than 70 percent over the last decade.
- b) In 2014-15, provisional and short-term permits nearly tripled from the number issued two years earlier, growing from about 850 to more than 2,400.
- c) The number of teachers hired on substandard permits and credentials nearly doubled in the last two years, to more than 7,700 comprising a third of all the new credentials issued in 2014-15.
- d) Estimated teacher hires for the 2015-16 school year increased by 25 percent from the previous year while enrollment in the University of California and the California State University teacher education programs increased by only about 3.8 percent.

The Learning Policy Institute (LPI) report offered several policy recommendations for consideration, including the creation of more innovative pipelines into teaching.

- 3) **Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) assessment.** As part of the Proposition 98 Education Analysis for the 2016-17 Governor’s Budget released in February 2016, the LAO included a section on teacher workforce trends in which it examined evidence for teacher shortages in specific areas, identified and assessed past policy responses to these shortages, and raised issues for the Legislature to consider going forward in terms of new policy responses. In the report, the LAO indicated that the statewide teacher market will help alleviate existing shortages over time and that the shortages may decrease without direct state action. However, the LAO noted there are perennial staffing difficulties in specific areas, such as special education, math, and science, for which they encouraged the Legislature to address with narrowly tailored policies rather than with broad statewide policies.

- 4) ***Credentialing process for out-of-state prepared teachers.*** California has a two-tier credential structure. A preliminary credential is the first document issued after an individual meets basic credential requirements. The preliminary credential is issued for a maximum of five years. A clear credential is issued when all credential requirements have been completed. If the requirements for the clear credential are not completed before the expiration of the preliminary, the holder is deemed ineligible to teach in California's public schools.

Further, current law requires that every teacher who provides instructional services to an English-learner be authorized to provide specialized instruction for those learners. This instruction would either (1) help the learners understand instruction that is taught only in English, (2) help the learners develop their ability to listen, speak, read, and write in English, (3) be provided in the learners' primary language as English is acquired, or (4) be taught in a language other than English for those learners in a dual immersion program.

For out-of-state prepared teachers, current law requires the applicant to attain a master's degree or demonstrate 150 hours of professional development to earn a Clear teaching credential, in addition to demonstrating subject matter knowledge and complete the Crosscultural, Language, and Academic Development certificate.

SUPPORT

Association of California School Administrators
California Catholic Conference, Inc.
California Charter Schools Association
California School Boards Association
California State PTA
California Teachers Association
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District

OPPOSITION

None received

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