

# Assembly Bill 1106

## PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential

### Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria

#### SUMMARY

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In August 2022, California's Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved the new PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Credential which is designed to advance best practices in child development and support the demand for qualified, diverse teachers that can serve children age 3 to third grade.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1106 would establish a grant program for institutions of higher education (IHEs) seeking to implement this new credential on their campus.

#### BACKGROUND

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Consistent with recommendations in the [Master Plan for Early Learning and Care: California for All Kids](#), California has made significant investments towards the goal of expanding transitional kindergarten (TK) to all four-year-olds in the state by the 2025-26 school year. The expansion of TK has created a demand for new teachers in public school classrooms. To meet the demand for a qualified workforce, it is projected that districts will need to hire between 11,000 and 15,600 additional lead TK teachers on top of the state's existing shortage.

Furthermore, the public higher education systems ([UC](#), [CSU](#), and [CCC](#)) all have specific goals in their Multi-year Compacts/Roadmap with the Administration to increase the number of students graduating with degrees in early education by 2026-27.

The new PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential, also in the Master Plan, is designed to meet the needs of a qualified

and diverse workforce. This new credential, expected to be approved by the Office of Administrative Law in Spring 2023, will prepare preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers with more specialized instruction and training to meet the developmental needs of that age group.

California is home to approximately 2.5 million multilingual learners, more than any other state. Despite the high need, the state is facing a low supply of qualified bilingual educators. In 1998, Proposition 227 passed, requiring English-only instruction in classrooms and imposing restrictions on bilingual education in the state. While this was rectified in 2016 through Proposition 58, a proposition removing English-only instruction requirements, the impact to these programs and the small number of educators prepared to support multilingual learners remains. With sixty percent of children age 5 and under being Dual Language Learners and the demand for more dual language immersion programs from [The Global 2030](#) plans, it is crucial that the state begins to support the development of and increasing the number of preparation programs which allow for earning a teaching credential and bilingual authorization at the same time.

#### SOLUTION

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AB 1106 establishes a one-time grant program, administered by Commission on Teacher Credentialing, to IHEs to incentivize development and implementation of the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential pathway and support program development that is rooted in best practices to support diverse candidates. Grantees will be encouraged to work with their corresponding bilingual authorization programs to meet the

demand for an early learning workforce that is prepared to teach the next generation of Californians.

## **STATUS**

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Introduced: February 15, 2023

## **CONTACT**

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## **SUPPORT**

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The Education Trust – West (Co-Sponsor)  
Children Now (Co-Sponsor)