

Flexibilities for Teacher Candidates Impacted by COVID-19 Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, or Education Specialist Credential Programs

On May 29, 2020, the Office of the Governor signed an Executive Order N-66-20 to provide flexibilities to assist credential candidates impacted by the health and safety restrictions related to COVID-19 which expired on August 31, 2020. On September 18, he signed SB 820, which extended these actions for an additional year. The extension is effective through August 31, 2021.

Executive Order N-66-20 includes postponement of RICA and/or TPA assessments required for a preliminary teaching credential. The requirement for candidates to complete the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA), and/or a Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) for issuance of a preliminary credential are temporarily suspended and moved to Clear credential requirements. Candidates may be issued a preliminary credential without completion of RICA and/or TPA but will be required to complete the assessment in order to qualify for the Clear credential.

CTC also extended the issuance of the Program Sponsor Variable Term Waiver (PS-VTW) through January 31, 2021. This is a one-year waiver and is applicable for candidates who were unable to complete other remaining credential requirements in addition to RICA and/or TPA. These remaining requirements include CPR, Technology Requirement, and/or U.S. Constitution Requirement. Upon completion of the remaining credential requirements candidates must file for the preliminary credential.

Summary of Credential Application Filing Options for Teacher Candidates Impacted by COVID-19

These options apply to candidates who completed the Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, or Education Specialist Credential Program at the end of Spring 2020, Fall 2020, or Spring 2021.

1. Preliminary Credential – Candidates have completed ALL requirements on the checklist including RICA and /or TPA.
2. Preliminary Credential under Executive Order N-66-20 – expires August 31, 2021
Candidates postponing RICA and/or TPA and have completed all other requirements on checklist. RICA and/or TPA will be required as part of the Clear requirements in addition to the Induction Program. Candidates will be required to sign an agreement form acknowledging understanding of electing this option.
3. PS-VTW (1-year waiver) – expires January 31, 2021
Candidates postponing a combination of these requirements: CPR, Technology Requirement, U.S. Constitution Requirement, RICA and/or TPA. Completed all requirements listed on checklist except for requirements being postponed. Candidates must complete all requirements within one year and file for the preliminary credential with our office upon completion of the remaining requirements. We recommend this option if you plan to seek employment. Otherwise, wait to file for the preliminary credential under option 1 or 2. Contact Credential Services to request for a PS-VTW application.
4. For Interns Candidates – Interns who do not qualify for options 1 or 2 and plan to continue employment with the same employer may continue working under the intern credential if it is valid or file for an extension to their intern credential for an additional year. This option requires continued enrollment in a supervision course. Interns who will change employers, should file for the PS-VTW (option 3). Interns who do not plan to continue employment should wait to file for the preliminary credential under option 1 or 2.

If you have any questions or need guidance on filing your credential application, you may contact Credential Services at 408-924-3541 or credentials@sjsu.edu.