

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Mike Fong, Chair

AB 2206 (Fong) – As Amended April 13, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Teacher credentialing: community college baccalaureate degrees: designated subjects career technical education teaching credential

**SUMMARY:** Establishes a pilot program for specified California Community College districts to offer a designated subjects career technical education teaching program. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Removes any reference of the community colleges from the definition of regionally accredited institution of higher education (IHE) in the Teacher Credentialing Law of 1988.
- 2) Clarifies for purposes of the Teacher Credentialing Law of 1988, a baccalaureate degree from a community college can be a qualifying alternative to a baccalaureate degree offered by a regionally accredited IHE; if and only if, all of the following apply:
  - a) The community college offering the baccalaureate degree is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC Jr.); and,
  - b) The baccalaureate degree offered by the community college includes coursework in basic reading, writing, and mathematic skills in the English language, as defined.
- 3) Establishes a pilot program permitting the California Community Colleges (CCC) to offer personalized preparation programs for designated subjects career technical education credentials (CTE credentials).
  - a) Authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) beginning on January 1, 2027 and ending on January 1, 2033, to approve a qualifying community colleges to recommend the issuance of a CTE credential in a subject that is aligned to the community college’s approved baccalaureate program to an individual who has completed a personalized preparation program for a CTE credential at the community college. The program for personalized preparation program for the CTE credential offered at the community college must meet the standards approved by the CTC.
  - b) Requires the CTC to apply the same standards for the approval of a program of professional preparation offered by a regional accredited institution of higher education to a program for personalized preparation for CTE credentials offered by a community college.
  - c) Defines a “qualifying community college” as a CCC within a community college district that offered a baccalaureate degree program prior to January 1, 2026.
  - d) Sunsets the pilot on January 1, 2033, and repeals the provision of the pilot on January 1, 2034.
- 4) Requires the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) to conduct an interim statewide evaluation of the pilot program and to submit a report on the evaluation to the Legislature and Governor on

January 1, 2032. Requires community colleges that are participating in the program to provide information to the CCC Chancellor's Office who will then supply the information to the LAO. The evaluation and report will include the following:

- a) How many, and which, community colleges applied for and were accredited to offer a program for personalized preparation for CTE credentials by the CTC;
  - b) How many, and which community colleges applied to offer a program for personalized preparation for CTE credentials and were denied by the CTC, along with the reasons for why the CTC denied the community college;
  - c) The cost to each community college that offers a program for personalized preparation for CTE credentials and the funding source that was used for the program;
  - d) The cost to each credential candidate who enrolls in the program for personalized preparation for CTE credentials at each college;
  - e) Completion rates for each cohort of students who enrolls in a program for personalized preparation for CTE credentials at a community college. The LAO will compare this to the completion rates for programs of professional preparation offered by local education agencies, the California State University (CSU), the University of California (UC), and independent institutions of higher education for personalized preparation programs in CTE credentials;
  - f) The number of CTE credentials issued by the pilot program;
  - g) The number of teachers issued a CTE credential by the pilot program and are still employed in a teaching position after three years; and,
  - h) Current trends in workforce demand for CTE credentialed teachers in the region where a community college is offering a program for personalized preparation for CTE credentials.
- 5) Permits a three-year preliminary CTE credential to be conferred if a candidate meets the other codified existing requirements but allows for a candidate to have instead of three years of experience a baccalaureate degree, in the industry sector or subject on the CTE credential, from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or from a community college that confers baccalaureate degrees and is accredited by WASC Jr.
- 6) Makes technical and clarifying changes to existing law based on the provision of the measure.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes the Teacher Credentialing Law of 1988 which establishes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and the minimum requirements teacher credentials and teacher preparation programs in the State of California (Education Code (EDC) Sections 44200-44418).
- 2) Defines "regionally accredited institutions of higher education" for purposes of the Teacher Credentialing Law of 1988 (EDC Section 44203).

- 3) Authorizes the CTC to approve any regionally accredited institution of higher education to recommend to the CTC for the conferral of a credential any person who has completed a teacher preparation program at the higher education institution that meets the standards approved by the CTC (EDC Section 44227).
- 4) Establishes the Donahoe Higher Education Act which differentiates the roles of the three public higher education systems in California. Authorizes the CCC to offer education up to a two-year degree. Authorizes the CSU to offer undergraduate and graduate education up to a master's degree in liberal arts, sciences, and professional education; including teacher education. Permits the CSU in specific circumstances the ability to offer applied doctoral degree programs. Permits the UC to provide undergraduate and graduate education in liberal arts and sciences; and professional education such as legal studies, doctoral programs, and teacher education (EDC Section 66010.4).
- 5) Establishes the CCC under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. The CCC shall be comprised of community college districts (EDC Section 70900).
- 6) Establishes that CCC districts are under the control of a board of trustees, known as the governing board, who has the authority to establish, maintain, operate, and govern one or more community colleges, within its district as specified (EDC Section 70902).

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:** *Double referred.* This measure was heard by the Assembly Committee on Education on April 08, 2026, where it passed on consent with a vote of 9 – 0. A review on the issues germane to K-12 education are addressed in the Committee's analysis.

*Author's statement.* As delineated by the author, "AB 2206 is a measured approach to expanding teacher preparation programs to the California Community Colleges by allowing colleges with pre-existing baccalaureate degree programs to offer a corresponding career technical education degree. This will allow the community college an opportunity to demonstrate they are able to offer quality post-baccalaureate degree programs and to assist in addressing a critical workforce shortage. Community colleges are meant to serve their community, and this measure expands their opportunity to meet an unmet workforce need by offering career educational teacher preparation programs."

*Need for the measure.* The Donahoe Education Act establishes the blueprint for higher education in California and spells out the distinct roles each of the public higher education systems. The missions of the three public higher education systems are codified and together they create a trifurcated public education system each performing a unique and distinct public service to the State of California. The Donahoe Education Act authorizes both the CSU and the UC to provide professional education programs for the future teachers of California. Modifications to the Donahoe Education Act have been approved by the State in recent years; however, each modification required approval by both the Legislature and the Governor. In the last decade, the CCC and the CSU have sought to expand their authority in the programs they are permitted to offer students. The CCC received authorization to offer career technical baccalaureate degree programs, and the CSU is permitted to offer doctoral programs. In their expanded capacity neither the CSU nor the CCC are permitted to offer programs that are duplicative of the other systems. CCC are not permitted to offer baccalaureate degrees that are duplicative of programs

offered by the CSU nor the UC; and similarly, the CSU is not permitted to offer a doctoral program that the UC would consider duplicative of an existing UC program. The duplication prohibition is to ensure the systems are not stripping another system of state resources, competing for the same pool of qualified students, and are maximizing opportunities for collaboration with their public counterparts.

The Teacher Credentialing Law of 1988 authorizes a regionally accredited institution of higher education to offer teacher preparation programs for the purpose of preparing individuals for careers as K-12 classrooms educators. In 2021, when the CCC baccalaureate program became a permanent part of the CCC's mission, then-Chair of this Committee, Asm. José Medina, sought to include a CCC baccalaureate degree as a permissible baccalaureate degree for purposes of qualifying an individual for a teacher preparation program. By changing the definition of regionally accredited institutions of higher education to include CCC's who offer baccalaureate degree programs, AB 320 (Medina), Chapter 663, Statutes of 2021, inadvertently created an opportunity for CCC to circumvent existing requirements in the law and seek opportunities to offer post-baccalaureate degree teacher preparation programs and integrated teacher preparation-baccalaureate degree programs.

In 2026, the Legislature was informed a community college had begun seeking opportunities through the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to offer a teacher preparation program for an existing baccalaureate degree program in interaction design. The college also wished to offer an early education teacher preparation program. The community college sought to use the drafting error to justify their ability to become an accredited institution of higher education who is able to offer all forms of teacher preparation programs including integrated teacher preparation programs (baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate degree programs). Not only was this seen as a violation of the California Donahoe Education Act, but a workaround existing law regarding the prohibition on duplication for CCC baccalaureate degree programs.

AB 2206 (M. Fong) makes technical and clarifying changes to modify the Teacher Credentialing Law of 1988 to align with the original intention of AB 320 (Medina). In doing so, this measure seeks to do the following:

- 1) Preserve the desire for a CCC baccalaureate degree to qualify a student for a teacher preparation program offered by a four-year university; and,
- 2) Fix the drafting error by returning the name of a regionally accredited institution to four-year colleges and universities.

AB 2206 (M. Fong) also seeks to provide community colleges with the opportunity to address a teacher shortage in career technical education by offering a teacher preparation pilot program in this specific field.

*CCC Baccalaureate degrees.* In 2014, then-Senator Marty Block authorized a pilot program (BA pilot) to explore whether CCC could offer career technical baccalaureate degrees focused on providing upskilling to industry specific associate degrees. *The teacher preparation pilot program introduced by this measure is a replica of the language offered by then-Senator Block for the CCC baccalaureate degree pilot.* The BA pilot was so successful it led to a permanent expansion of the CCC mission to include career technical, non-duplicative baccalaureate

degrees.<sup>1</sup> In order to offer a baccalaureate degree, a community college must submit an application for a baccalaureate degree program to the CCC Chancellor's Office. The application is then reviewed by the CSU and the UC. If there is duplication, the application is to pause until the CSU or UC and the community college can resolve the duplication. If there is no duplication, the application is submitted to the CCC Board of Governors for approval. Since 2014, 61 baccalaureate degree programs have been authorized by the Board of Governors.<sup>2</sup>

AB 2206 (M. Fong) introduces a pilot program that permits community colleges to offer a teacher preparation program for CTE credentials. Since community colleges are authorized to offer CTE baccalaureate degrees, the logical next step would be to permit the community colleges to offer teacher preparation programs for these niche type of credentials. The pilot program introduced by AB 2206 (M. Fong) would allow any community college with a baccalaureate degree program prior to January 1, 2026, whose program aligns with a CTE credential, to offer a teacher preparation program for that specific CTE credential.

As of January 1, 2026, there are 46 community colleges who offer baccalaureate degree programs. The pilot program is explicit, the degree program offered by the community college must match the subject matter of the CTE credential otherwise the community college will not be permitted to offer the teacher preparation program. Therefore, it is worth noting not every community college with a baccalaureate degree program will be permitted to offer a teacher preparation program for CTE credentials unless they can demonstrate to the CTC that the degree aligns with the credential.

*Designated subjects career technical education credentials.* According to the CTC, designated subjects career technical education credentials or CTE credentials authorize a person to teach in the subjects or subjects named on the credential in grades K-12 and in classes organized for adults in career technical, trade, or vocation courses.<sup>3</sup> The subjects listed on a CTE credential are as follows: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Arts, Media, and Entertainment; Building and Construction Trades; Business and Finance; Education, Child Development, and Family Services; Energy, Environment, and Utilities; Engineering and Architecture; Fashion and Interior Design; Health Science and Medical Technology; Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation; Information and Communication Technologies; Manufacturing and Product Development; Marketing, Sales, and Service; Public Services; and, Transportation.<sup>3</sup>

The primary purpose of the CTC is “to serve as a state standards board for educator preparation or California public schools, the licensing and credentialing of professional educators in California, the enforcement of professional practices, and the discipline of California credential holders.”<sup>4</sup> The CTC undertakes the task of approving higher education institutions and local education agency as qualifying entities to provide teacher preparation programs and then subsequently refer students for teacher credentials. The secondary accreditation process by the CTC takes seven years and includes data analysis and site visits.<sup>5</sup> Currently there are 19 entities that are authorized to offer CTE credentials in California: two CSU campuses, two UC

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<sup>1</sup> <https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4140>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Educational-Services-and-Support/What-we-do/Curriculum-and-Instruction-Unit/Curriculum/Baccalaureate-Degree-Program>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl-888/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://docs.ctc.ca.gov/Document/Download/30071>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/program-sponsors/accreditation/>

campuses, and 15 local education agencies.<sup>6</sup> Data from the CTC demonstrates 63% of CTE teachers are unprepared or lack the appropriate credential for the subject they are assigned to teach. By allowing the community colleges to provide teacher preparation programs in designated CTE subjects, the State is allowing for an additional pathway to provide skilled and trained teachers for CTE courses at K-12 school districts.

*Implications on the Master Plan of Higher Education.* AB 2206 (M. Fong) does provide the community colleges the opportunity to provide teacher education preparation programs, which would be consider a redirect from the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education. However, this measure seeks to correct a mistake made in 2021 that allows community colleges to seek authorization from the CTC to offer ANY teacher credential programs. Rather than allowing a carte blanc sharing in the preparation of teachers in California, AB 2206 (M. Fong) seeks to follow the path of past Legislatures and allow the CCC an opportunity to demonstrate they can provide career technical specific programs to address a specific workforce need. Without this measure, community colleges could qualify to offer any teacher preparation program without regard as to whether CCC faculty are qualified to teach the preparation programs and would pave a pathway for additional duplication between the CCC and the CSU. AB 2206 (M. Fong) is a measured approach to allow the CCC an opportunity to offer teacher preparation programs without stripping the CCC of a perceived statutory authority granted to the system by a drafting error.

#### **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

##### **Support**

None on file.

##### **Opposition**

None on file.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/reports/dashboards/approved-institutions-and-programs/>