

Impacts of AB 1505 and the California State Assignment Accountability System (CalSAAS)

Background

In 2019, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill (AB) 1505 (Chapter 486/2019). This bill made significant changes to requirements as to how charter schools are authorized in California, including new guidelines for new school petitions, existing school renewals, and charter school teacher credentialing. This fiscal alert focuses on the area of credentialing for charter schools, and discusses basic factors to consider and recommendations for both charters and authorizers.

Provisions in AB 1505 now require the following:

- Teachers employed before the 2019-20 school year and teaching in noncore and noncollege preparatory courses will have until July 1, 2025, to obtain a certificate, permit, or other documents through the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
- All teachers hired after July 1, 2020, will need to possess the appropriate credential for their teaching assignment.

California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC)

CALPADS is a longitudinal data system used to maintain individual-level data including student demographics, course data, discipline, assessments, staff assignments, and other data for state and federal reporting for all public school students in California, which includes those attending charter schools.

CTC's major purpose is to serve as the state standards board for educator preparation for the public schools of California, the licensing and credentialing of professional educators in the state, the enforcement of professional practices of educators, and the discipline of credential holders in the state of California. Obtaining certificate of clearance from the CTC generates the Statewide Educator Identifier (SEID) that is used in CALPADS data submissions.

CalSAAS incorporates data on a teacher's specific credential number, including which courses a teacher is authorized to teach (data obtained from CTC) and the course codes an LEA may assign for master scheduling purposes (data obtained from CALPADS). Starting with the 2019-20 school year, the California Department of Education (CDE) began monitoring credential authorization information through the newly developed CalSAAS.

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Impacts for Charters - Renewal Petitions

Charter administration should carefully compare their certificated staff's credentials to the master or teaching schedule. Charter schools should ensure teachers are assigned to the correct course code in CALPADS and that they are appropriately credentialed to teach each specific course(s). Failure to ensure staff are qualified and credentialed could make the charter school noncompliant with the new legislation. Utilizing CalSAAS, charter schools should work with their authorizers and/or county offices of education to review and resolve any questionable assignments.

Charters should not delay in working with local universities to enroll certificated staff into credentialing programs. Depending on the teacher's background, education, and previous experience, a typical credential program can take up to one year to complete. For the current fiscal year, the fall 2 CALPADS deadline is March 5. The submission window is January 5, 2021 to March 5, 2021. Charter schools should review their current certificated staff who are assigned to core courses and ensure they are assigned appropriately. (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/rptcalendar.asp>)

Impacts for Authorizers

The authorizer is ultimately responsible for adequate and appropriate oversight. Pursuant to Education Code 47607, an authorizing agency may revoke a charter school's charter for material violations, through a showing of substantial evidence, including the following:

- Gross financial mismanagement that jeopardizes the charter school's financial stability.
- Illegal or substantially improper use of charter school funds for the personal benefit of any officer, director, or fiduciary of the charter school.
- Substantial and sustained departure from measurably successful academic practices that would deny the educational development of the school's pupils.
- Any violation of any provision of the law.

As part of the oversight responsibilities, FCMAT recommends authorizers review a sample of staff's credentials compared to the master schedule or courses assigned. Consistent with AB 1505, this should only apply to new teachers hired as of July 1, 2020 or those who are assigned to teach core classes. This process ensures staff are qualified to teach within their respective assignment. This is also a recommended process as outlined in FCMAT's Charter School Oversight Checklist (<https://www.fcmat.org/PublicationsReports/charter-school-oversight-checklist.pdf>).

Additional Resources for both Charters and Authorizers

- [Changes to the Credential Requirements for Charter School Teachers Based on the Provisions of Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1505](#)
- [CALPADS Training](#)

- [Recorded Webinars: CalPADS, Local Control and Accountability Plan \(LCAP\) and CalSAAS](#)
- [New Assignment Monitoring System-CalSAAS](#)

This fiscal alert does not constitute legal advice. Information and instructions about establishing charter schools can be found on the CDE's website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ch/>.

For additional charter school and authorizer resources, please visit <https://www.fcmat.org/charter-and-authorizer>.