



April 28, 2023

The Honorable Quirk-Silva
1021 O Street, Room 4210
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 1555**: Transitional kindergarten: teacher assignments: qualification requirements.
Position: **Support**

Dear Assemblymember Quirk-Silva,

On behalf of the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), representing over 24,000 school business leaders in K-14 education, we are pleased to support AB 1555, which extends the requirement from August 1, 2023, to August 1, 2028 for credentialed teachers assigned to transitional kindergarten (TK) classrooms to meet specified early childhood education (ECE) requirements.

California has made an investment in our educational system that will increase access to Transitional Kindergarten (TK) for all four year old children. TK is part of the K-12 public school system and is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. Teacher shortage has hit critical levels during and after the pandemic with teachers leaving the profession in substantial numbers. Estimates from the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at UC Berkeley indicate a need for between 8,000 and 11,000 new teachers in a K-12 system that is already struggling with critical teacher shortages across the state.

Adding additional requirements to credentialed teachers we have been able to retain, while they are still teaching, has been difficult. Extending the timeline requirements by five years will ease the burden for our already overworked teachers and assist in making sure we are able to retain our valued current teacher workforce.

For these reasons, CASBO supports AB 1555. Should you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Esquivel at eesquivel@casbo.org.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Esquivel
Assistant Executive Director of Governmental Relations
California Association of School Business Officials