



Commission on Teacher Credentialing

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Office of the Executive Director

October 28, 2025

Dr. Kelly Vaughn, Accreditation Contact
Notre Dame de Namur University
School of Education
1500 Ralston Avenue
Belmont, CA 94002

RE: Notification of Commission Action for Literacy Instruction Certification Pursuant to SB 488
(Chapter 678, Statutes of 2021)

Dear Dr. Kelly Vaughn:

This letter formally acknowledges that the Commission on Teacher Credentialing has certified all teacher education programs and pathways offered by your institution that are subject to SB 488 (Chapter 678, Statutes of 2021) literacy certification. Programs that were required to undergo certification included Preliminary Multiple Subject, Education Specialist: Mild to Moderate Support Needs, Extensive Support Needs, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Visual Impairments, and Early Childhood Special Education. (Note: New program proposals approved after October 2023 were reviewed under the new literacy standards during the Initial Program Review process and did not have to undergo literacy certification.)

We would like to thank you and your staff for the hard work you invested in ensuring alignment with SB 488 (Chapter 678, Statutes of 2021). We know this involved deep analysis by your faculty and program staff of the requirements of SB 488, revision of coursework and clinical practice requirements, new or revised documentation, and, in some cases, development of entirely new courses or modules. We also thank you for your patience and timely responses to any questions about your program or the documentation submitted so that reviewers were able to make informed decisions.

It is important that we note that although your programs have received certification, the certification process was limited in scope to those aspects that were most aligned with the language of the statute. The certification process did not cover Standard 7 or TPE 7 in their entirety and it was limited to a document review. Additionally, the certification process did not include a review of literacy instruction as it relates to Preliminary Single Subject programs. Beginning with fall 2025 accreditation site visits, the accreditation site visit process will include, as with all other standards, interviews with key constituencies, review of all pertinent documentation, and review of applicable data including outcomes for the Literacy Performance Assessment, as data become available. While success in having been certified by the

Commission will play an important role in a team's decision on Standard 7, accreditation teams may make their own determination about whether or not the full scope of Standard 7 is met, met with concerns, or not met based on the totality of the information they review and the broader set of evidence available to them.

Additionally, we ask that you **do not** remove the literacy certification materials from your accreditation website at this time. Having this information available for the next couple of years will be critical to the next steps in the accreditation cycle.

Once again, we thank you for your efforts and look forward to evaluating the impact these programmatic and standards changes have on literacy instruction in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Vixie Sandy". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Sandy" being more prominent than the middle name "Vixie".

Mary Vixie Sandy, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Cc: Dr. Caryl Hodges, Accreditation Contact