



Our members are celebrating the passage of SB916, the Theatre & Dance Act of 2016, also known as TADA! But this hard-earned victory leaves our profession with a new set of questions. We at CDEA are committed to keeping you informed and involved in the process of dance credential program development and implementation.

**F**requently

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**Q**uestions

We are truly in a new era in CA dance. Thus, we offer this preliminary FAQ sheet for your convenience.

We hope it will be helpful to a wide range of CDEA stakeholders, from graduate students contemplating their degree choices, to K-12 dance teachers currently holding certification(s), to members positioned in higher ed. invested in research, development and hosting the sites for the first credential programs.

Please stand by for regular updates and forthcoming invitations to take an active role in CDEA's process of shaping the new POST TADA landscape for dance education in California. As our understanding grows, so will our ability to provide timely, supportive information to you, our members.

- Your Executive and Greater Board, CDEA, Nov 2016

### **1. TADA! has passed. When will I be able to enter a dance or theatre credential program?**

*We have heard estimates of 3-4 years before new programs commence. California Teaching Commission (CTC) has protocols that will influence our steps, but likely steps include: forming a CDEA Credential Task Force and Credential Coalition; working in parallel with CETA California Educational Theatre Association and the other 4ArtsEdOrg partners in music – CEMA and visual arts-CAEA; the development California's dance and theatre credential curricula; the establishment of appropriate tests and proctoring procedures; and, norming the programs to align with CA VAPA standards that are due to be updated since AB2862 also passed in September 2016.*

### **2. If programs will not be ready until a few years from now, am I wrong to pursue a PE credential to teach dance in the meantime?**

*The authorized credential for teaching Dance remains Physical Education until programs are available for teachers to pursue the dance credential. Some current dance teachers have credentials in other academic subjects and an additional Subject Matter Authorization or Supplemental Authorization to teach dance. This allows them to teach dance at some sites in some districts. However, for now, we recommend that teachers obtain the PE credential, eventually considering the additional credential in Dance for maximum flexibility in California, as many middle and secondary school dance programs are connected with PE. Once the dance credential programs have been developed, any teacher who earns this credential can add the PE Credential by passing the PE CSET (subject matter exam). Similarly, PE credentialed teachers will be able to add the Dance credential in the future by passing the eventual Dance CSET.*

### **3. Will getting a dance credential without a PE credential limit my ability to be hired in the future, especially in rural schools and small school districts?**

*For dance educators seeking to work in under-resourced schools or schools without an established dance program, the PE credential, or any other subject credential, gives their potential employer more flexibility in covering courses and filling out their FTE. Many dance program directors hold credentials in a non-arts, non-PE subject. The disadvantage of having multiple licensures is that you may be asked to teach multiple subjects even if your preference is for teaching dance full-time. This is an unavoidable reality, though the hope is that, over time, the existence of the credential will lead to more full-time dance positions throughout the state, even in smaller districts.*

**4. I have a PE credential and teach dance. If I try to change jobs in the future, after dance credentials are available, will my credential be adequate?**

*All current PE-credentialed teachers in CA are grandfathered in as authorized to teach dance for the entirety of their careers. The CTC will set a date at which this will no longer be true for rising PE teachers. They will also determine at what point university students in the "PE Credential Pipeline" will no longer be authorized to teach dance without getting the dance credential. It will be awhile before these dates are considered. As a reminder, once the dance credential exists, a teacher holding any other credential can take the Dance CSET to add it to their record.*

**5. I am in higher education and have experience and organizational skills in curriculum development, relevant research practices, or experience in other states that have the dance credential or I am at a site that plans to host such a program. How can I be involved?**

*The CDEA Credential Task Force embarks in winter of 2017, has monthly meetings by video and occasional in-person meetings throughout the year. It may be the place for you.*

*Contact us at [cdea.danceorg@gmail.com](mailto:cdea.danceorg@gmail.com) to let us know of your interest.*

**6. I am in K-12 education and have experience and organizational skills in standards development, curriculum alignment, frameworks, and pedagogical strategies in dance education as well as how dance education supplements and invigorates academic learning and helps develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. How can I be involved?**

*The CDEA Credential Task Force embarks in winter of 2017, has monthly meetings by video and occasional in-person meetings throughout the year. It may be the place for you.*

*Contact us at [cdea.danceorg@gmail.com](mailto:cdea.danceorg@gmail.com) to let us know of your interest.*

**7. I am interested in lending my voice and also staying apprised of the process. I know that demonstrating to the various governing bodies how many dance educators are invested in this effort is important. I do not have a lot of time to give but could attend a couple of meetings via video chat a year and read emails.**

*The CDEA Credential Coalition embarks in winter of 2017, and may be the place for you. Contact us at [cdea.danceorg@gmail.com](mailto:cdea.danceorg@gmail.com) to let us know of your interest.*