

Steps to Becoming an Elementary School Teacher in California

Step 1: Complete Your Educational Preparation

- Bachelor's degree
- Satisfy your US Constitution requirement with Political Science 1 or the state exam

Step 2: Pass Your Examinations

- Basic skills requirement -- prior to applying to your credential program
- California Subject Exam for Teachers (Multiple Subjects) -- prior to student teaching
OR complete an approved subject matter preparation program
- Reading Instruction Competence Assessment -- while in your credential program

Step 3: Obtain a Character Clearance (prior to student teaching)

Step 4: Complete a teaching credential program along with or after your BA degree

- Teaching methods
- Reading instruction
- Public health
- Special student populations (culture, language, special needs)
- Foundational computer technology
- Fieldwork
- Student teaching

Step 5: Apply for your preliminary Multiple Subject Teaching Credential

Step 6: Complete a two year induction or BTSA program at the district level

- Support and mentoring
- Skill based assessments
- Health education, special populations, computers, English learners

Step 7: Apply for your professional clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential

Additional Recommendations

- Consider obtaining a degree authorization in math or science to teach middle school
- Consider obtaining an Education Specialist Instruction Credential for special education