



Teaching Credentials Authorized for Theatre and Dance

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California students who want to teach theatre or dance classes will soon have the opportunity to pursue subject-specific credentials to do so.

A new law, authored by Senator Ben Allen and signed by Governor Brown this week, authorizes teaching credentials for Theatre and Dance.

“It’s a big deal,” said Joe Landon of the California Alliance for Arts Education. “It gives dance and theatre the same stature as music and visual arts.”

Under the current system, Theatre undergrads can only teach Theatre after getting an English credential, and Dance students have to get a Phys Ed credential to teach dance.

“if you were a P.E. teacher who was delivering dance instruction, you might have taken a course or two in dance,” Landon explained. “But you haven’t gone deep into ‘What is dance? How do you teach it?’”

Melinda Wilson Ramey, who heads Sac State's Theatre and Dance Department, says the new law will be a great asset to students.

“Because we can teach the classes within our own majors, it will help them prepare for post-graduate careers more quickly and more efficiently,” said Ramey.

The law, 40 years in the making, has been vetoed twice by former Governors.