



## **SB 916**

### **Fact Sheet**

### **SENATOR BEN ALLEN**

### **Theatre and Dance Act (TADA!)**

#### **SUMMARY**

The visual and performing arts – defined as art, dance, music and theatre – are integral to California’s economy and our quality of life. Although single-subject teaching credentials are authorized in art and music, California is one of only two states in the country that does not issue a single-subject teaching credential in dance or theatre. SB 916, the Theatre and Dance Act (TADA!), addresses this gap in arts education by establishing a single-subject teaching credential for dance and for theatre.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Single-subject teaching credentials are issued for middle and secondary school teachers to ensure subject matter knowledge. Current law authorizes teaching credentials in 13 core subjects, including Agriculture, Art, Business, English, Foreign Language, Health Science, Home Economics, Industrial and Technology, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education (PE), Science, and Social Science. In the 1960s, dance and theatre credentials were issued in California, however, they were omitted from a legislative reform enacted in 1970, and have not been reinstated in the decades since them.

In order to teach dance, a teacher must obtain a credential in Physical Education, even though the standards for teaching dance are separate from the standards for teaching physical education. Similarly, to teach theatre, an instructor must obtain an English credential, even though an

English credential provides no training in theatre instruction. Dance and theatre are the only two subject areas with discrete subject standards that are not taught under their own single-subject credential.

Dance and theatre undergraduate majors are prevalent in California, with 73 public and private colleges and universities offer dance majors, and 131 colleges offering theatre majors. Students earning degrees in dance or theatre are unable to teach in their respective fields unless they get a credential in PE or English.

#### **THIS BILL**

SB 916, known as the Theatre and Dance Act, (TADA!) requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue single-subject teaching credentials in dance and theatre.

#### **SUPPORT**

California Alliance for Arts Education (sponsor)  
California Educational Theatre Association  
California Dance Education Association  
California Federation of Teachers

#### **CONTACT**

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