

WHAT IS SBC⁴?

Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO), in partnership with colleges, universities, and school districts in Santa Barbara County, provides funding to participants up to \$4,000 per year. Funding is applied toward tuition and other expenses related to completing an approved credential program. This includes work toward a bachelor degree if your intention is to then complete a teaching credential program. Classified employees receive the funding in the form of reimbursement, with the agreement to fulfill a promise to teach one year in a consortium district for every year of financial assistance received. The SBC⁴ program consortium includes all public schools in Santa Barbara County.

WHY DOES SBC⁴ EXIST?

The State created opportunities to fund programs such as SBC⁴ to establish innovative models for teacher education response to teacher shortages and improve teacher retention. These programs' high retention rates are due in part to the fact that participants have experience in educational settings. Therefore, program graduates have a demonstrated commitment to students and are already familiar with educational settings and classrooms.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SBC⁴? (MUST MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS LISTED BELOW)

1. Employed by a public school district in Santa Barbara County and working as a classified employee (e.g. instructional aide, office/clerical, etc.)
2. Completion of an Associate or higher level degree, or equivalent units towards a Bachelor degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or higher.
3. Agree to become Multiple Subjects, Single Subject, or Special Education teacher.
4. Must obtain a Certificate of Clearance from the California Commission on Teaching Credentialing (CTC) -may be completed after applying to the program.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE SBC⁴?

The New Participant Application is on the SBCEO Credentials Services website ([click here](#)).

1. Part I: Contact Information
2. Part II: Consent Form (to be signed by designated District contact)
3. Part III: Statement of Purpose/Autobiography
4. Exam Registrations/Scores (CBEST, CSET, RICA) if available
5. Unofficial Transcripts from all Colleges and Universities attended

Once receiving formal acceptance into the program, participants will be required to submit:

1. Official Transcripts from all Colleges and Universities attended - updated transcripts will be required on a regular basis to confirm progress in your program.
2. CTC Certificate of Clearance
3. Signed Participant Commitment and Agreement Form

WHAT DO I RECEIVE AS A SBC⁴ PARTICIPANT?

1. Reimbursement of tuition, or other degree / credential-related expenses, up to \$4,000 per school year. Funding is based on documentation of expenses and verification of progress toward your credential goal.
2. Academic and non-academic support is available. Including academic advisement at SBCEO, at participating universities, tutoring, and **biannual cohort meetings** that give participants the information and training necessary to transition from classified service to certificated service.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I 1) FAIL A COURSE, 2) WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE OR, 3) RECEIVE AN INCOMPLETE?

If you fail a course due to non-attendance and/or simple failure to complete course requirements, you are responsible for the cost to repeat the course. The program will not fund repeated courses due to failure to comply with course requirements.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I FAIL TO MEET A MINIMAL GPA?

Grades must be submitted at the end of each academic term. SBC⁴ participants must maintain a 2.7 or higher cumulative GPA. Failure to maintain an adequate GPA may result in suspension and/or dismissal from SBC⁴.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I RESIGN MY POSITION?

In order to continue to receive support, you must be employed as a classified employee in a school district. If you wish to have continued funding during student teaching or an internship, you may request a leave of absence and will be able to retain your SBC⁴ support. Documentation from the District and University is required before you begin student teaching. SBC⁴ is required to report the names of all those who drop from the program to the CTC annually.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DECIDE THAT I CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE IN THIS PROGRAM?

SBC⁴ is required to report the names of all those who drop from the program to the CTC annually.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I RECEIVE MY PRELIMINARY CREDENTIAL?

Once you receive your preliminary credential, you must notify the SBC⁴. When confirmed, the program will send you an official graduation letter with further instructions for completing required years of service. You must teach on a preliminary and/or clear credential one year in a California public school district for every school year of financial assistance received.

WHICH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IHE) ARE CURRENTLY PARTNERING WITH SBCEO FOR THIS PROGRAM?

- Allan Hancock Community College
- Santa Barbara City College
- Antioch University
- Brandman University
- Cal Polytechnic University
- University of California Santa Barbara
- Westmont University

WHAT IF MY IHE IS NOT CURRENTLY PARTNERING WITH SBCEO FOR THIS PROGRAM?

SBCEO will work to expand our collaboration agreements with more Institutions of Higher Education to accommodate participant preferences and convenience. We also plan to partner with other County Offices of Education that have been awarded the grant in order to collaborate with their IHE partners as needed and to ensure the total participant slots that SBCEO has been awarded have all been filled.

WHO WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY TO BE A PARTICIPANT IN THIS PROGRAM?

Primary acceptance will be provided to: 1) those who can show evidence of the ability to fast-track to credential completion, 2) those who demonstrate the potential to help address the teacher shortage in Santa Barbara County consistent with district needs and current vacancy data, 3) district ability to work with participants closely, 4) those who can support the high bilingual teacher need, and 5) those who are in remote areas with hard-to-fill teaching positions. Priority will also be given to applicants who, as classified employees, have demonstrated potential and the strongest interest and background for success in the program.

HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS WILL THERE BE IN THE SBC⁴ PROGRAM?

This program has currently been awarded a total of 45 participant slots. Application information will be sent to all classified employees who have submitted their Intent to Apply. Selected members of the SBC⁴ governance team will conduct a structured application screening process to determine applicants that will be formally accepted to participate in the first cohort. If you are not selected into the first cohort, your application will be retained and reviewed again for acceptance as participants exit the program and slots again become available. New applications will be accepted each year during the five-year grant period.

WHAT IS THE DATA FOR THE TEACHER SHORTAGE IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY?

To assist with the grant proposal submitted by SBCEO, all 21 Local Education Agencies provided information on vacancies in teaching positions that require the Multiple Subjects, Single Subject, and Education Specialist teaching credential. During the 2016-2017 school year, Santa Barbara County experienced more than 684 vacant teaching positions requiring these three credentials.

WHEN WILL I HEAR ABOUT WHETHER I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE SBC⁴ PROGRAM?

Participants for our first cohort will be selected in 2017. Participants in subsequent cohorts are selected and notified as applications are received and space is available.

WILL THERE BE REGULAR MEETINGS TO HELP ME CHOOSE THE RIGHT IHE AND COURSES?

Yes. There will be regular cohort meetings for participants to maximize support for participant progress toward attaining a credential. SBCEO credential staff will also be available to support you as you work toward your credential goal.