



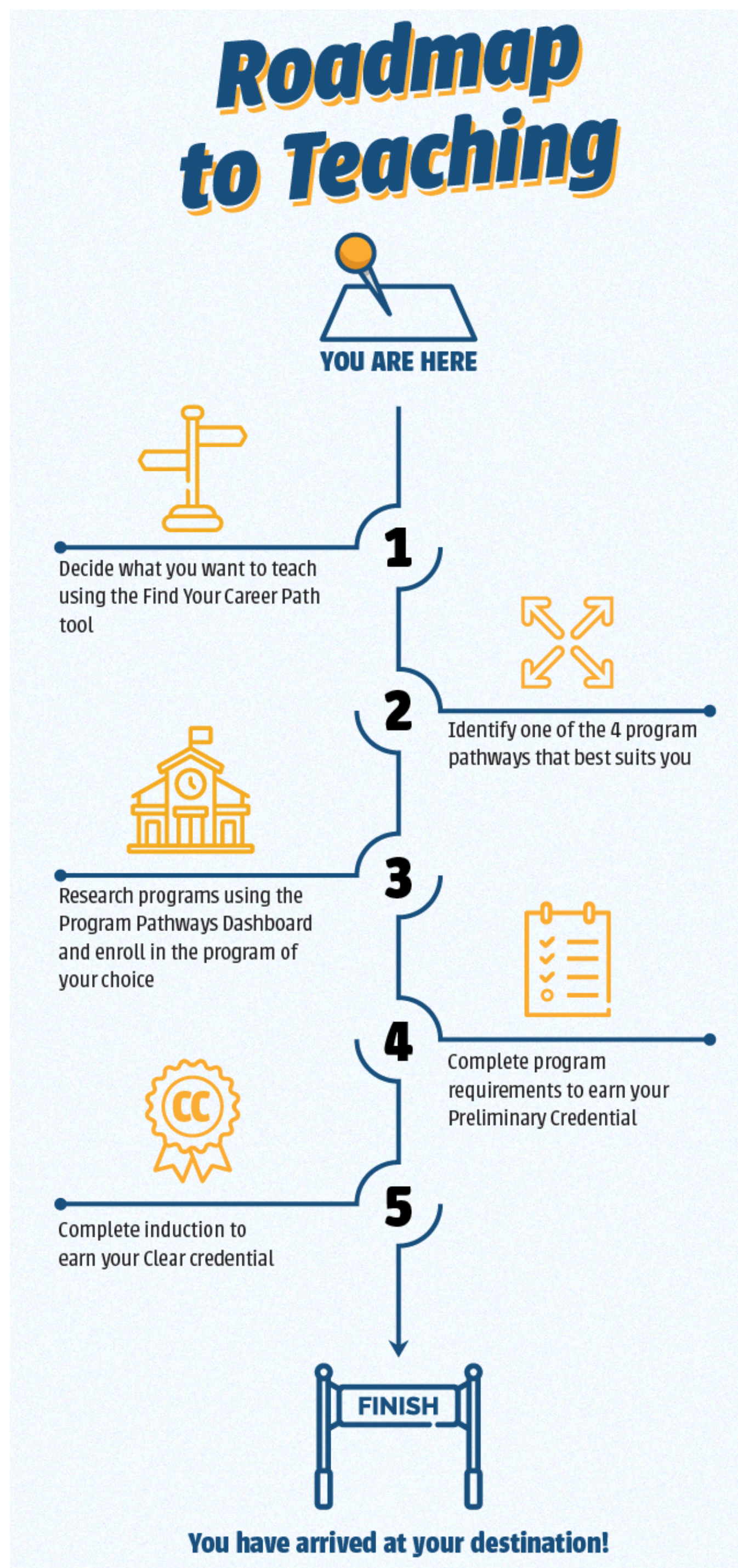
HOW TO BECOME A KOREAN TEACHER IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CALIFORNIA

A Comprehensive Step-by-Step Guide



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KOREAN EDUCATION CENTER IN LOS ANGELES

HOW TO BECOME A KOREAN TEACHER IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CALIFORNIA



A Comprehensive Step-by-Step Guide

Becoming a Korean language teacher in California requires following specific steps set by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

This guide provides a detailed, step-by-step process for individuals seeking to teach Korean at the elementary or secondary level.

It also includes alternative pathways for individuals with teaching credentials from other U.S. states or Korea.

CTC's Roadmap to
Teaching QR Code:



CTC's Roadmap to Teaching: <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/req-teaching>

BEFORE YOU START:

Attached is a chart outlining significant changes to the process of obtaining your Korean Credential in California, along with updated credential information.

Category	Before	As of 2025
CALIFORNIA BASIC EDUCATIONAL SKILLS TEST (CBEST)	Required	Alternate path available
READING INSTRUCTION COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT (RICA)	Required	NOT Required
SUBJECT MATTER COMPETENCE VIA COURSEWORK	Required	Passing the California Subject Exam is sufficient

*Subject Matter Competence via Coursework: Previously, candidates had to complete specific coursework to demonstrate subject matter competence. Now, passing the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET): World Languages, specifically the Korean Subtests I, II, and III, is sufficient.

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STEP 1: DETERMINE THE CREDENTIAL YOU NEED

A. Elementary School Korean Teacher (K-6)

- Requires a **Multiple Subject Teaching Credential**, which authorizes teaching in a self-contained classroom where a teacher instructs multiple subjects (e.g., elementary school settings).
- If teaching in a bilingual Korean-English setting, a **Bilingual Authorization in Korean** is also needed.

B. Secondary School Korean Teacher (7-12)

- Requires a **Single Subject Teaching Credential** in Korean, which allows teachers to instruct a specific subject (Korean) in a departmentalized classroom (e.g., middle school or high school).
- If teaching in a dual-language program, a **Bilingual Authorization in Korean** is needed.

STEP 2: MEET EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Educational Requirements:

- **A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution** is required, which includes an accredited university in Korea (for instance a BA degree from an accredited Korean University.)
- Your degree does not necessarily need to be in education, but relevant coursework is beneficial. In other words, any major in your BA degree can be used to satisfy the BA requirement (regardless of the major subject of your BA, you are eligible to apply for a Teaching Credential in Korean).

B. Recommended Degree Paths:

- **Korean Language and Literature** – Develops expertise in Korean language, literature, and culture of Korea.
- **Education Linguistics, Applied Linguistics, or Foreign Language** – Provides a foundation in pedagogy and second-language acquisition.
- **Korean Studies** – Offers an interdisciplinary approach combining language and cultural insights.

STEP 3: ENROLL IN A TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM

California requires teachers to complete a CTC-approved Teacher Preparation Program, which includes:

- Pedagogy and classroom management coursework
- 600+ hours of student teaching
- California Teaching Performance Assessment (CalTPA).

Available Pathways:

- **Integrated Undergraduate Programs:** Combine a bachelor's degree with credentialing coursework in a streamlined process. Many universities in California offer credentialing programs as part of their education departments. Some programs are tailored specifically to world languages.
 - Examples
 - **California State University Long Beach:** CSULB offers a streamlined program for students pursuing a degree in Korean language and culture. The university also provides pathways for students to complete credentialing coursework in language education, allowing them to earn their bachelor's degree while working toward a teaching credential. The program is part of their Department of Asian and Asian American Studies.
 - **California State University Los Angeles:** CSULA offers an integrated program for students interested in teaching Korean. The Department of Modern Languages & Literatures offers a Bachelor's in Korean, and students can pursue a teaching credential in World Languages (including Korean) through their College of Education. This allows students to complete both their degree and credential in a streamlined process.

Available Pathways Cont:

- **Traditional Post-Baccalaureate Programs:** Completed after earning a bachelor's degree at a university-based credential program.
 - Examples of Traditional Post-Baccalaureate Programs:
 - University of California Irvine, University of California Santa Barbara, and so on. University of California San Diego, the University of California Riverside, and the University of Southern California also offer Traditional Post-Baccalaureate Programs.
- **Internship Programs:** Allows individuals to work as a paid teacher while completing their credential coursework.
 - Examples of Internship Programs:
 - University of California San Diego, University of California Riverside, University of Southern California, and so on
- **Online or Private Institutions:** Flexible online credential programs for candidates needing adaptable schedules.
 - Examples of Online or Private Institutions:
 - Biola University , University of Southern California, and so on
- Explore CTC-approved programs: Find a CTC-Approved Program
- <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/reports/data/approved-institutions-and-programs>

Explore CTC-approved programs:
Find a CTC-Approved Program QR Code



STEP 4: PASS REQUIRED EXAMS (OR OBTAIN EXEMPTIONS)

A. Satisfy the Basic Skills Requirement (CBEST or Alternatives)

The California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) is the standard assessment of reading, writing, and math skills required for teachers in California. To pass the CBEST, one must obtain a minimum scaled score of 41 in each of the three sections—reading, writing, and mathematics. However, a score as low as 37 in an individual section is acceptable if the total scaled score is at least 123. There are also multiple ways to satisfy the Basic Skills Requirement (BSR) without taking the CBEST.

- **Ways to Be Exempted from CBEST (Exempt if you fall under one of the categories I-VII)**

- i. **SAT or ACT Scores**

- SAT Exemption: Math 550+ (taken before March 2016) 570+ (taken after March 2016), English 560+
 - ACT Exemption: Math (23+), English (22+)

- ii. **Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Scores**

- AP English Language or AP English Literature (3+)
 - AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, or AP Statistics (3+)

- iii. **College-Level Coursework**

- English Composition, Critical Thinking, or Literature Course (Grade B or higher)
 - College-Level Mathematics Course (Grade B or higher)

- iv. **CSET: Multiple Subjects + Writing Skills Exams**

- v. **Pass the CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP) or CSU Placement Exams** (“College Ready”) taken in Spring of 11th grade

- vi. **Out-of-State Basic Skills Exams**

- vii. **National Board Certification**

- **How to Submit a CBEST Exemption Request**

- i. Gather supporting documents (SAT/ACT scores, transcripts, AP score reports, etc.)
- ii. Submit them to either:
 - Your teacher preparation program (if enrolled) OR
 - The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) if applying independently.
- iii. Wait for CTC approval of your exemption.
- Check all CTC Basic Skills Requirement & Exemptions:
 - [www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/basic-skills-requirement-\(cl-667\)](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/basic-skills-requirement-(cl-667)).

- **B. Demonstrate Subject Matter Competency in Korean**

- **Pass the CSET: Korean Exam OR Complete a CTC-approved Korean Subject Matter Preparation Program.**
- **CSET: Korean Required Subtests:**
 - Single Subject Korean Teachers: Korean Subtest I (General Linguistics and Korean Linguistics), II (Culture, Literature, and History), and III (Korean Language Proficiency).
 - Elementary Korean Dual-Language Teachers: Korean Subtest III, World Languages Subtest IV (Bilingual Education), and Korean Subtest V (History, Geography, Culture, and Politics of Korea).
- CSET: Korean Exam Registration:
 - <https://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/>
- Find a CTC-Approved Subject Matter Program
 - <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/reports/data/approved-institutions-and-programs>
- Find more information about CSET: Korean
 - https://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/CA_CSET160_TestPage.html

CTC Basic
Skills



CSET
Register



CTC
Program



CSET Korean
More Info:



C. Additional Requirements

- **Bilingual Authorization (for bilingual Korean-English teaching)**

- [https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/bilingual-authorizations-\(cl-628b\)](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/bilingual-authorizations-(cl-628b)).

- The Bilingual Authorization allows teachers to provide instruction in both English and Korean for students in bilingual or dual-language programs. Candidates can obtain this authorization by:

- Passing the CSET: World Languages (Korean Subtest III, IV, and V) OR
 - Completing an approved bilingual teacher preparation program that includes coursework in bilingual education and second-language development. OR combination of both

Bilingual Authorization



STEP 5: APPLY FOR A PRELIMINARY TEACHING CREDENTIAL

- The Preliminary Teaching Credential is valid for five years and is non-renewable.
- Within this timeframe, teachers must complete an Induction Program to earn a Clear Teaching Credential (fully authorized to teach).

Steps to Apply: [Apply Here: <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/apply-for-coc-ascc>]

1. Submit an application through the CTC Online Credentialing System and submit the following documents:
2. Official transcripts verifying completion of a bachelor's degree.
3. Exam scores from CBEST (or an alternative exemption) and CSET: Korean.
4. Verification of Teacher Preparation Program completion.
5. Complete a Live Scan (Fingerprinting and Background Check).
6. Pay the application fee.

Apply here:



STEP 6: COMPLETE AN INDUCTION PROGRAM

To transition from a Preliminary Credential to a Clear Credential (fully authorized to teach), complete an Induction Program within five years.

- A two-year, job-embedded mentorship program that includes classroom observations, mentoring, and professional development.
- Provided by school districts, universities, or county offices of education.
- Induction programs are usually provided by the school district where you are employed.
- If you hold a National Board Certification, you may be eligible for exemption.
- Find an Approved Induction Program:
 - <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/teacher-induction>



STEP 7: FIND A JOB AS A KOREAN TEACHER

- Search for jobs through district websites, EdJoin.org, and professional networks.
- Consider dual-language, charter, and private schools.
- Join professional organizations like KLTA (Korean Language Teachers Association) or AATK (American Association of Teachers of Korean).

STEP 8: ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Maintain your credential through professional development hours.
- Attend workshops, training sessions, and Korean education conferences.
- Stay involved in language teaching organizations.
- The Korean Education Center in Los Angeles (KECLA) offers resources and events for Korean educators.
- Professional development participation can count toward your promotion and pay raise.

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS BASED ON BACKGROUND

Scenario 1: I Already Have a Bachelor's Degree

- Enroll in a Teacher Preparation Program.
- Pass required exams (CBEST/CSET or exemption alternatives).
- Apply for a Preliminary Credential.
- Complete an Induction Program for a Clear Credential.

Scenario 2: I Have a Teaching Credential from Another U.S. State

- Apply for a California Credential via Reciprocity.
- If you have less than two years of experience, you may receive a Preliminary Credential and need to complete additional requirements.
- If you have two or more years of experience, you may qualify directly for a Clear Credential.
- You may be exempt from CBEST and Induction if you meet experience requirements.
- More details: CTC Out-of-State Credential Information
 - <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/out-of-state-app>
 - <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/roadmap-to-teaching/teaching-in-california—prepared-in-another-state>

Scenario 3: I Have a Teaching Certification from Korea

If you hold a teaching credential from Korea, follow these steps to obtain a California Teaching Credential:

Link 1:



Link 2:



1. Credential Evaluation

- Submit your official transcripts and Korean teaching credentials to a CTC-approved foreign credential evaluation agency.
- The evaluation verifies degree equivalency, teacher preparation program completion, and credential validity.

2. Basic Skills Competency

- You may be exempt from CBEST if your coursework and tests from Korea align with California's Basic Skills Requirement.
- If needed, take CBEST or an approved alternative such as coursework, standardized tests, or alternative assessments.

3. Demonstrate Subject Matter Competency

- Pass CSET: Korean (Subtests I, II, and III) or complete an approved Korean Subject Matter Preparation Program.

4. Apply for a California Teaching Credential

- Submit the foreign credential evaluation report and proof of subject matter competency.

5. Complete Additional Coursework (if required)

- Some Korean credential holders may need to take supplemental coursework at a California university.

6. Apply for a Preliminary Credential

7. Complete a Teacher Induction Program

Approved Foreign Transcript Evaluation Agencies:

- CTC Foreign Transcript Evaluation:

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/foreign-transcripts-evaluation>

CTC Foreign
Transcript Evaluation



FINAL SUMMARY: BEST PATHWAYS BASED ON YOUR SITUATION

SITUATION	PATHWAY
NO BACHELOR'S DEGREE	Earn a bachelor's degree > Enroll in the Teacher Preparation Program > Pass exams > Obtain Preliminary Credential > Complete Induction Program.
BACHELOR'S DEGREE (NO CREDENTIAL)	Enroll in Teacher Preparation Program > Pass exams > Obtain Preliminary Credential > Complete Induction Program.
OUT-OF-STATE U.S. TEACHING CREDENTIAL	Apply for Reciprocity > May be exempt from CBEST/Induction.
TEACHING CREDENTIAL FROM KOREA	Credential Evaluation > Pass CSET (if required) > Apply for California Credential > Complete additional coursework (if required) > Complete Induction Program.

- For further details, visit California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC)
 - <https://www.ctc.ca.gov>



TIPS/POINTERS/ RECOMMENDATION

- Upon receiving the credential, you will have the opportunity to expand your teaching portfolio by adding additional subjects. This is particularly advantageous if Korean is not initially offered as a full-time position upon joining the school, as it allows you to seamlessly integrate Korean with other subjects, enhancing both your versatility and impact in the classroom.
- RICA (for Multiple Subject Credentials only): The Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) is being retired and will no longer be offered after June 30, 2025.
 - https://www.ctceams.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/CA_RICA_TransitionInfo.html&t=RW



ABOUT US: Korean Education Center in Los Angeles

ABOUT US

Korean Education Center in Los Angeles, also known as KECLA, is an organization established by the Republic of Korea to promote the Korean language and culture in the United States of America.

MISSION.VISION

Our mission is to empower individuals aspiring to become certified Korean Language Teachers in California, including those who have graduated from a 4-year university in Korea or currently teach as Saturday Korean instructors. We provide guidance, resources, and support to help them navigate the certification process, making the journey toward becoming a licensed teacher attainable and achievable.

Our vision is to create a vibrant community of skilled and passionate Korean Language Teachers in California, where educators who have earned their degrees in Korea are recognized and supported in their journey to becoming fully certified teachers. We envision a future where these educators, equipped with the right resources and knowledge, have the opportunity to inspire and teach the next generation of students, fostering a deep appreciation for the Korean language and culture. By providing clear pathways, offering ongoing support, and encouraging the pursuit of professional growth, we strive to make the process of becoming a licensed Korean Language Teacher in California seamless and empowering, ultimately enriching the state's educational landscape with diverse, qualified, and dedicated educators.

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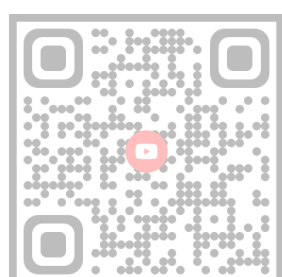
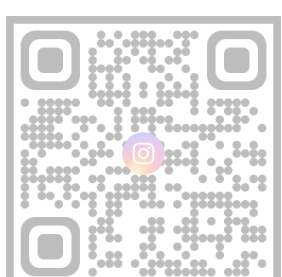
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