

Survey gives alternative certification high marks

More than 90 percent of school principals across California ranked teachers from alternative certification programs as good or better than other beginning teachers, according to a survey conducted by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Generally, hiring school districts believed that teachers from alternative certification programs were as good or better in planning and implementing instruction (92.1 percent of respondents), classroom management (89 percent), and providing effective teaching strategies (90.1 percent).

"Principals are reaffirming what we already know – professionals who choose to pursue an alternate route into the classroom are not only highly qualified, but they are an invaluable

asset to our public schools," said Catherine Kearney, president of the California Teacher Corps.

The survey also found that nearly 95 percent of principals would hire additional teachers from alternative certification programs. Lastly, the survey found that 90 percent of hiring school districts believe that alternative certification programs help to meet their need for teachers in critical shortage subject areas.

The California Teacher Corps is a new statewide organization formed in August to represent the more than 70 alternative certification programs throughout California. Formerly a loose affiliate, these programs have joined under one umbrella to focus on the recruitment of second-career professionals and other content experts,

establish new alternative certification programs where they are needed in the state, offer technical assistance to strengthen existing ones and provide a unified voice for these programs. The Teacher Corps has a goal of placing 100,000 highly qualified teachers in California public schools by 2020.

The survey is conducted by the CTC for the purposes of program improvement. The survey was completed by site administrators, or principals that employ teachers from alternative certification programs, across California in the spring of 2009. Site administrators completed a survey of performance for each teacher who is placed from an alternative certification program.

For more information, visit www.cateacher corps.org.