

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BULLETIN

(2002)

Federal “Transition to Teaching” Grant Helps Reduce Reliance on Emergency Permits

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in partnership with two large urban school districts, received a federal Title II Partnership Grant to improve the quality of student achievement. The Transition to Teaching grant program focuses on teacher quality and student achievement by targeting high-need, low-performing schools and providing every student with fully qualified teachers and administrators. The program offers a multi-pronged approach to teacher and administrator development and credentialing: employing the Governor’s teacher incentive and recruitment initiatives, actively recruiting non-traditional credential candidates such as mid-career changers and minority candidates, carefully examining credentialing possibilities, and expanding the Pre-Intern program. The grant provides \$1 million over the next three years.

San Diego City Unified School District and Oakland Unified School District have demonstrated a strong commitment to recruiting fully credentialed teachers and exploring avenues to eliminate the use of emergency permits. The results of their efforts have been impressive, with San Diego City Unified reducing the use of emergency permits to nearly zero and Oakland Unified moving rapidly in that direction. This project can serve as a model for other California school districts that face similar challenges in recruiting, preparing and retaining qualified teachers.

In addition to the district partners, the project will include other agencies working together to form a common approach to recruitment and credentialing. These include:

- (1) the Project Pipeline Northern California Teacher Recruitment Center and the San Diego, Imperial and Orange Counties Teacher Recruitment Center, both of which are state-funded public agencies responsible for teacher recruitment in response to local district needs;
- (2) the HEA Title II San Diego State Teacher Recruitment Program and the HEA Title II Oakland Unified School District Teacher Recruitment Program, both of which are federally funded teacher recruitment grants awarded to San Diego State University and to Oakland Unified School District to serve regional recruitment needs;
- (3) the Oakland Unified School District/California State University, Hayward, Alternative Certification Intern Program, the Oakland USD/John F. Kennedy University Alternative Certification Intern Program, the Teaching Internship Program

of Alameda County, and the Oakland Unified School District Alternative Certification Pre-Intern Program; and
(4) the San Diego City Schools Alternative Certification Intern Programs and the San Diego City Schools Alternative Certification Pre-Intern Program.

In the Transition to Teaching project, two forward-thinking local school districts, Oakland and San Diego, are demonstrating, in partnership with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the success of a comprehensive effort to use all available resources to prepare teachers for their students.