



PRESS RELEASE

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010

Commission Provides Guidance to Ease Path For Special Education Teachers

SACRAMENTO – The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, at its January 28, 2010 meeting, approved a report that provides guidance to special education teacher preparation programs considering comparable experiences and coursework as alternatives to their regular course offerings. The goal of the report is to promote flexibility and extend opportunities for credential candidates to demonstrate competencies gained through previous experiences. The report can be found at the following link: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2010-01/2010-01-2D.pdf>.

The report, *Comparability of Coursework for Sponsors of Special Education Teacher Preparation Programs*, is a result of Assembly Member Ruskin's 2008 bill, AB 2226.¹ The bill called for the Commission to assemble a workgroup to provide written guidance for special education teacher preparation programs as they considered the previous experiences and course work of credential candidates. The workgroup, whose members represented a wide variety of education organizations, determined that the evaluation process could include a broad range of possibilities such as courses taken at other universities, professional development, work experience, and life experience.

To illustrate how this process can be implemented, the report includes several scenarios. The report also offers guidance regarding the collection of evidence to support the comparability determinations and encourages clear and concise written agreements between the program sponsor and the credential candidate.

After approving the report and authorizing its transmittal to the Governor, Legislature, Secretary of Education and special education credential program sponsors, the Commission directed staff to work with the Commission's Committee on Accreditation in developing suggested guidelines that can apply to all credential preparation programs.

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¹ Chap. 233, Stats. 2008