



PRESS RELEASE

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Commission Approves Cultural Society to Assess Teachers' Italian Language Skills

SACRAMENTO – The Commission on Teacher Credentialing approved the Northern California based Italian Cultural Society as an assessor agency for teaching credentials in Italian language instruction, at its March 4, 2010 meeting.

California approves language assessor agencies for less commonly taught languages when a California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) is unavailable in the specific language and when there are limited Commission-approved coursework options in the university programs. There are currently 17 CSET language examinations in languages other than English. The goal of this additional assessment route is to “open up” opportunities in as many languages as possible for teachers and teaching credential candidates who are interested in providing language instruction in the public schools.

This alternative route includes the sections of the standardized CSET examinations that cover linguistics and language instruction techniques as well as the instruction of the literature and culture of the target language. However, approved assessor agencies are called upon to assess the candidate’s listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

The Italian Cultural Society, located in Carmichael, CA, is a nonprofit organization that promotes and preserves the study of Italian language and culture. Since 2006, the Society has served as the local agency for Italy’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and manages the Italian Government’s annual allocations granted for the promotion of Italian language courses. All of the individuals assigned by the Society to assess teachers’ language skills meet the “distinguished” level on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages scale.

Teachers who pass this alternative assessment must also hold a California teaching credential or earn one in order to be qualified to teach Italian in the public schools.

The Italian Cultural Society will make the language skills assessment available on a statewide basis as appropriate to respond to candidate assessment needs. For further information about the Italian Cultural Society, go to: <http://www.italiancenter.net/>

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