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Report Shows Statewide Decreases in Non-teaching Credentials, Employment

SACRAMENTO – The number of new public school services credentials are down, according to a May 2012 report from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission), California’s independent standards board for educator licensing and discipline. Overall, the Commission issued 11% fewer services credentials between the 2006-07 and 2010-11 school years. Employment numbers for these credential holders has also trended downward over the five year period described in this report, adding fuel to California’s persistently low staff-to-student ratio. Read the full report [here](#).

Public school services credentials authorize non-teaching services that support student learning such as administration, health services, library services, speech-language pathologists, and pupil personnel services. The report documents the number of services credentials issued and the number of individuals employed in each service area, combining for the first time Commission data and data from the California Department of Education’s California Basic Education Data System (CBEDS).

The overall downward trend in services credentials issued is unevenly distributed, spanning a 40% increase in Speech-Language Pathology and Clinical and Rehabilitative Services credentials to a 26.4% decrease in School Nurse credentials. Other services credential types fall somewhere in between with increases in Teacher Librarian (8%) and School Counseling (14.8%) credentials to decreases in Administrative Services (-19.1%), School Social Worker (-18.9%) and School Psychologist (-10%) credentials.

The number of people serving in these positions in California’s public schools has also dropped in the preceding five years – by 9%. According to available CBEDS data, increases in employment were seen only in the School Social Work (20.2%) and School Counselor (4.7%) positions, with decreases shown in all other areas: Teacher Librarian (-27.5%), School Nurse (-13.3%), Speech-Language Pathology and Clinical and Rehabilitative Services (-8.4%), Administrative Services (-8.2%), and School Psychologists (-1.4%).

Not to be overlooked are the data on the number of waivers and emergency permits issued during this time period. These are documents issued by the Commission when there is an acute staffing need and no fully credentialed individual can be found to fill the

position. It is not insignificant that although some service areas saw a greater number of waivers and emergency permits issued in each of the five years compared to full credentials, the Commission's report shows a decrease in the issuance of waivers and emergency permits in every services area.

It is not surprising that a drop in employment opportunities would coincide with a drop in the number of people earning credentials. However, the fact that there are fewer positions available in these non-teaching student support roles adds to California's staff-to-student ratio woes. While the Commission's report makes a few suppositions for the drop in numbers cited in its report, in general the report lets the data speak for itself.