

**California
Commission on Teacher Credentialing**

**Meeting of
March 6, 2003**

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: PERF – 1

COMMITTEE: Performance Standards

TITLE: (Bilingual) Crosscultural, Language and Academic
Development Examinations: Proposed Contract
Amendment

Action

Information

Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal 1: Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- Sustain high quality standards for the performance of credential candidates

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**(Bilingual) Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development
Examinations: Proposed Contract Amendment**

**Professional Services Division
March 6, 2003**

Executive Summary

The current contract for administration of the (Bilingual) Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (CLAD/BCLAD) Examinations expires with the 2002-03 testing year. This item recommends that the Commission amend the contract with National Evaluation Systems, Inc. (NES), to administer the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations for one more year while a job analysis, validity study and possible revision of the examinations is conducted. If approved, this amendment would increase the total contractual amount by \$1,589,724 to fund administrations of the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations through June of 2004. This amount would include an increase in funds for the 2002-03 testing year due to larger than anticipated numbers of examinees. Even though this raises the maximum threshold of the contract, NES will only be paid based on the actual number of examinees.

Fiscal Impact Summary

This amendment will allow the Commission to spend more from the Test Development and Administration Account (TDAA) on the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations contract, as needed due to an extension of the contract period and resulting increase in expenses for administration of the examinations. Increased expenses, however, will be compensated for by increased revenue from examinee fees.

Policy Issue to be Decided

Should the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations administration contract be amended to extend the contract for one year and make \$1,589,724 in additional funds available to compensate the testing agency?

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the contract amendment summarized below.

- Contract Number:..... TCC-9040
- Contractor: National Evaluation Systems, Inc.
- Contracting Period: August 1, 2000, to October 31, 2004
- Purpose of Contract:..... Complete the administration of the
CLAD/BCLAD Examinations
- Proposed Amendment: Increase the total contract amount by
\$1,589,724, from \$1,937,201 to
\$3,526,925
- Source of Funding: Examinee fees

(Bilingual) Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development Examinations: Proposed Contract Amendment

**Professional Services Division
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Background

The Commission issues Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (CLAD) and Bilingual, Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (BCLAD) Certificates that authorize teaching English Learners (EL). Education Code Section 44253.5 requires the Commission to develop and administer examinations on which a teacher can demonstrate competence in the knowledge and skills necessary for effective teaching of EL. The CLAD/BCLAD Examinations were developed for that purpose and were first administered in 1995. The CLAD/BCLAD Examinations consist of six sections. Completion of Tests 1-3 and possession of a prerequisite teaching credential is one way of earning a CLAD Certificate. Completion of Tests 1-6 and possession of a prerequisite teaching credential is the means by which a candidate may earn a BCLAD Certificate.

The current three-year contract to develop and administer the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations was awarded to National Evaluation Systems, Inc. (NES) in April 2000 on the basis of a competitive bidding process. The contract calls for two administrations of the CLAD/BCLAD each year and the contract will expire on October 31, 2003. The contract established \$1,937,201 as the total amount available to reimburse NES. CLAD/BCLAD Examinations administration expenses through the December 2002 testing date total \$1,707,060, with one test administration date remaining for the current contract.

Funding for administration of the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations is fully supported by fees paid by examinees as required under Education Code §44298. The examinee test fee covers the Commission's costs related to the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations, as well as the administrative duties performed by NES. NES is responsible for collecting these fees and submitting the total amount to the Commission. The Commission then pays NES a specific amount per paid examination. The amount paid to NES is based on a sliding scale related to the annual number of paid examinations.

Rationale for the Amendment to the Contract

There are two purposes for the proposed contract amendment: 1) extend the contract for administration of the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations for one year; and 2) increase the total dollar amount of the contract to provide enough funding to compensate the contractor for the administration of the examinations through the end of the contract.

Staff is preparing to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a contractor to conduct a job analysis and validity study on the BCLAD examinations and use the job analysis and validity

study conducted pursuant to SB 2042 (Alpert/Mazzoni 1998) and AB 1059 (Duchenev 1999) to develop a new CLAD examination. This RFP will also include administration of the new tests once they are developed. The new CLAD examination is expected to be available in the spring of 2004 and will replace the existing CLAD examination at that time. It is anticipated that a contract will be awarded and work on this project will begin in the summer of 2003. In order to continue to provide an examination option while the study of examination standards is conducted, it is necessary to amend the contract with NES for administration of the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations for one year.

As described in the previous section, costs for administration of the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations are based upon the number of paid examinations per year. At the time that the contract for administration of the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations was developed in the summer of 2000, the total cost of the contract was established based upon projected examination volumes. While examination volumes for the first two years of the contract were consistent with the projections, there was a 50% increase in the number of paid examinations for the fall 2002 test administration compared to the fall 2001 administration. This increase appears to be based upon recent concerns about the economy and compliance issues. For these reasons, a similarly large increase is anticipated for the May 2003 test administration. Considering the expected growth for the 2002-03 and proposed one-year extension, it is necessary to augment the dollar amount of the contract to provide funding to compensate NES for administration of the examinations for the remainder of the contract.

Projected Costs

This proposed amendment would increase the amount of the contract by \$1,589,724, based upon projected volumes of paid examinations for the remainder of 2002-03 and all of the 2003-04 testing year. NES is compensated at varying rates for each exam due to the different assessment formats. The rates are established in the contract and based upon the combined total of all paid examinations for the year.

The total expenses for the remainder of the contract are projected to be \$1,819,865. The current balance of the contract is \$230,141. Subtracting that amount from the projected expenses for the remainder of the contract leaves an amount of \$1,589,724 by which the contract will need to be amended. NES will only be paid based on the actual number of examinees as specified in the contract.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission approve amendments to extend the contract with National Evaluation Systems, Inc. for administration of the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations by one year to October 31, 2004 and to increase the total contract amount by \$1,589,724 to \$3,526,925 to compensate NES for test administrations for the remainder of the contract.

