
2F

Information

General Session

Additions to Title 5 Regulations Pertaining to Degree Authorizations

Executive Summary: This agenda item reviews the key points of a stakeholders meeting held to discuss degree authorizations and middle school issues as they relate to No Child Left Behind.

Presenter: Dale Janssen, Director, Certification, Assignment and Waivers Division

Additions to Title 5 Regulations Pertaining to Degree Authorizations

Introduction

At the request of the Commission, staff met with stakeholders to discuss proposed additions to Title 5, California Code of Regulations pertaining to degree authorizations and how they align with the “highly qualified” teacher requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This agenda item reviews the key points of that meeting as well as proposed additions to Title 5 pertaining to degree authorizations.

Background

Currently, the Commission issues two types of supplementary authorizations that may be added to multiple subject and single subject teaching credentials. The Commission has issued supplementary authorizations for single subject credentials since 1979 and multiple subject credentials since 1981. Introductory Supplementary Authorizations authorize the holder to teach the supplementary subject in grades 9 and below and Specific Supplementary Authorizations which may only be added to single subject credentials, authorize teaching the specific subject in grades preschool, K-12 and classes organized primarily for adults.

In addition to the basic teaching credential, a supplementary authorization requires the completion of 20 semester or 10 upper division semester units, or equivalent quarter units, of course work in the subject requested. Specific Supplementary Authorizations require all of the 10 or 20 unit requirement be in the specific subject requested. The Introductory Supplementary Authorizations require at least one course in specified areas within the 10 or 20-unit requirement in courses within the broad subject category. For example, in the area of English an individual must have at least one course in grammar, composition, and literature. An individual may also qualify by having a college major from a regionally accredited college or university in a subject directly related to the subject to be listed.

One of the requirements to be a “highly qualified” teacher as defined in NCLB, is subject matter competence. Since supplementary authorizations do not require an individual to hold a degree in the subject area of the supplementary authorization, those supplementary subject areas that fall under the NCLB core academic subject areas are not NCLB compliant unless the holder qualified by holding a degree in the subject area.

At its August meeting, the Commission took action to realign certification programs and processes to the State Board's Plan and NCLB by directing staff to develop a new Degree Authorization in NCLB core academic subjects. This authorization meets the NCLB requirements for teachers in middle and high schools by either requiring a major in the subject to be taught or 32 semester units in the subject area.

At the November 2003 Commission meeting staff presented proposed amendments and additions to Title 5, California Code of Regulations pertaining to supplementary and degree authorizations. A number of stakeholders asked the Commission to table the action until they could meet with staff to discuss the supplementary and degree authorizations as well as other middle level issues; the Commission did table the item. The statements made by stakeholders at the Commission meeting appeared to also include NCLB subject matter compliance issues. Consequently, during December the Executive Director sent a letter to Rae Belisle, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, asking that both staffs meet with the stakeholders. Ms. Belisle agreed and a meeting was set for March 3, 2004 at the Commission offices.

The following stakeholders attended the March meeting: Lori Easterling, California Teachers Association; Linda Mook, California Federation of Teachers; Steve Betando, Stanislaus Union School District; Janet McDaniel, California State University, San Marcos and National Middle School Association; Peter Murphy and Laura Wasco, California League of Middle Schools; Sherry Skelly Griffith, Association of California School Administrators (ACSA); Lisa Hinshaw, Santa Ana Unified School District; Steve Van Zandt, Carlsbad Unified School District; Sharon Robison, ACSA; Carolina Pavia and Phyllis Bradford, Los Angeles Unified School District; Bruce Kitchen, School District Personnel Administrators of San Bernardino and San Diego Counties; Karen Steentofte, State Board of Education (SBE); and Penni Hanson, California Department of Education.

The stakeholders discussed four key points during the meeting:

Allow flexibility in staffing middle levels

There was consensus that the current credential structure with supplementary authorizations allowed flexibility to meet the varying needs of districts to provide instruction to middle levels. There was concern expressed that any changes the Commission may make to align the credential structure with NCLB continue to allow flexibility for staffing middle levels. The current credential structure appears to be aligned with the “highly qualified” teacher requirements except for supplementary authorizations. NCLB requires that teachers hold a bachelor’s degree, state certification and take an examination (for elementary that is the only means of meeting subject matter competency), a Commission-approved subject matter program, or a major or units equivalent to a major. The supplementary authorization requires 20-semester units, which is equivalent to a minor at a university. At the October 2003 Commission meeting the Commission had agreed that 32-semester units would be equivalent to a major.

Allow for multiple pathways to become middle level teachers

It was suggested that the Commission consider bifurcating additional tests that would have a middle level authorization, similar to what the Commission has already done with Foundational Mathematics. There was a belief that the Science and Social Science CSET examinations might also be bifurcated. There was also discussion that the CSET –Multiple Subjects could be adjusted to include a middle level authorization. Stakeholders stated that it was difficult to recruit teachers for the middle level and any additional methods that could be developed to encourage teachers to teach the middle

level would be helpful. It was agreed that staff would meet with stakeholders to discuss the concept and feasibility of bifurcating additional examinations.

Allow for a transition period for middle level teachers to become NCLB compliant

There was a concern on the part of all stakeholders that the Commission not act to quickly to align the Degree Authorizations with the NCLB “highly qualified” teacher requirements. There is a belief that requiring 32 semester units for a Degree Authorization versus the current 20 units for supplementary authorizations will reduce the number of teachers available to teach at the middle level. However, after discussion it was agreed that the degree authorizations would offer another path to earning an authorization for middle level.

Develop a vision for middle schools pertaining to Ed-Flex

Ed-Flex is a waiver process that will be administered by SBE. California currently does not have the authority to use Ed Flex, which is granted by the U.S. Department of Education. Ed Flex allows the state to provide local education agencies with additional time to meet specific requirements of NCLB. Ed Flex will be under the purview of SBE, consequently this issue will be addressed between the stakeholders and SBE staff.

Proposed Additions to Regulations for the Degree Authorization

There was consensus from the stakeholders to move forward with the proposed degree authorizations, yet at the same time continue to offer supplementary authorizations. The degree authorization is an option future teachers may use earn an authorization that is NCLB compliant. A chart comparing the supplementary and degree authorizations appears at the end of the proposed regulations.

There are two sections being proposed to add the requirements and authorization for introductory and specific degree authorizations. First, staff is proposing to add Title 5 §80089.3 to define the introductory degree authorization with the elements summarized below:

- Subsection (a) lists the appropriate prerequisite credential as a multiple or single subject credential. The definition for “equivalent quarter hours” adds clarity that quarter hours may also be used to meet the requirements.
- Subsection (a)(1) lists one of the options to meet the requirement by completion of a degree in the subject or related subject from a regionally accredited university. Completion of a degree in a subject area is one of the methods of verifying subject matter competence for NCLB subject matter compliance.
- Subsections (a)(2) lists one of the options to meet the requirements by completion of 32 semester units with course work in content areas. The requirements regarding the grade required for course work to qualify for a degree authorization and the definition for non-remedial course work is also listed. Thirty-two semester hours is deemed to meet the degree requirement for NCLB subject matter compliance. The proposal made during the November 2003 meeting included a requirement of 16 upper division units. The SBE adopted the 32-semester unit requirement as equivalent to the major for the High Objective Uniform State

Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) for “not new” teachers based on Commission action, but did not adopt the 16 upper division units. Staff deleted the requirement from this proposal based partially on the SBE action and based on the difficulty teachers will have trying to obtain upper division coursework due to budget cuts at the state university systems.

- Subsection (b) includes the list of introductory degree authorization subject areas that may be added to multiple or single subject credentials. Also included is a list of the content areas within each broad subject area. The list of subject areas are the federal core academic subject areas in NCLB.
- Subsection (c) is the authorization for the introductory degree authorization, which is aligned with the authorization for introductory supplementary authorizations.

Title 5 80089.3. Introductory Degree Authorizations

(a) The holder of a valid teaching credential specified in Education Code Section 44256(a) and (b) may have one or more of the subjects listed in subsection (b) added as an introductory degree authorization. Equivalent quarter hours may be used to meet the semester hour requirement. The candidate shall verify completion of either (1) or (2) below:

- (1) a collegiate major from a regionally accredited college or university in a subject or in a subject directly related to each subject from subsection (b) to be listed, or
- (2) 32 semester hours of non-remedial collegiate course work in a subject listed in subsection (b). Included within the 32 semester hours is a minimum of three semester hours in each of the specific content areas listed for the subject in subsection (b). A grade of "C" or above in any course used to meet the provisions of this subsection shall be required. Non-remedial coursework for the purposes of this section shall be defined as coursework that is applicable toward a bachelor's degree or a higher degree at a regionally accredited college or university.

(b) The following subjects may be added as introductory degree authorizations to a valid teaching credential specified in Education Code Section 44256(a) and (b):

- (1) Art, with the content areas of art history including aesthetics and appreciation, two-dimensional art including drawing, painting, and printmaking, three-dimensional art including sculpture and ceramics, and photography/computer generated imagery;
- (2) English with the content areas of grammar or language structure, advanced composition, speech, drama or theatre, and literature;
- (3) A Language Other Than English (specify) with the content areas of grammar, composition, culture, conversation, and literature;
- (4) Mathematics with the content areas of algebra, advanced algebra, geometry, probability or statistics, and development of the real number system or introduction to mathematics;

- (5) Music with the content areas of vocal music including the analysis of repertoire and literature appreciation for developing musicians, instrumental music including the analysis of repertoire and literature appreciation for developing musicians, aural musicianship, keyboard, music history including music appreciation, world music, conducting, and music theory;
- (6) Science with the content areas of biological sciences, chemistry, geosciences, and physics; and
- (7) Social Science with the content areas of United States history, California history, world history, world civilization or world cultures, physical geography, and United States government.
- (c) A subject specified in subsection (b) as an introductory degree authorization authorizes the holder to teach only the subject matter content typically included for that subject in curriculum guidelines and textbooks for study in grades 9 and below to students in preschool, kindergarten, grades 1-12, or in classes organized primarily for adults.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 44225, Education Code. Reference: Sections 44225(e), 44256 and 44349, Education Code.

Second, staff is proposing to add Title 5 §80089.43 to define the specific degree authorization with the elements summarized below:

- Subsection (a) lists the appropriate prerequisite credential as a multiple or single subject credential. The definition for “equivalent quarter hours” adds clarity that quarter hours may also be used to meet the requirements.
- Subsection (a)(1) lists one of the options to meet the requirement by completion of a degree in the subject or related subject from a regionally accredited university. Completion of a degree in a subject area is one of the methods of verifying subject matter competence for NCLB subject matter compliance.
- Subsections (a)(2) lists one of the options to meet the requirements by completion of 32 semester units with course work in content areas. The requirements regarding the grade required for course work to qualify for a degree authorization and the definition for non-remedial course work is also listed. Thirty-two semester hours is deemed to meet the degree requirement for NCLB subject matter compliance.
- Subsection (b) includes the list of specific degree authorization subject areas that may be added to multiple or single subject credentials. Also included is a list of the content areas within each broad subject area. The list includes the subject areas that are federal core academic subject areas for NCLB.

- Subsection (c) is the authorization for the specific degree authorization aligned with the authorization for a specific supplementary authorizations.

Title 5 80089.4. Specific Degree Authorizations.

(a) The holder of a valid teaching credential specified in Education Code Section 44256(a) and (b) may have one or more of the subjects listed in subsection (b) added as a specific degree authorization. Equivalent quarter hours may be used to meet the semester hour requirement. The candidate shall verify completion of either (1) or (2) below:

- (1) a collegiate major from a regionally accredited college or university in a subject directly related to each subject from subsection (b) to be listed, or
- (2) 32 semester hours of non-remedial collegiate course work directly related to the requested subject listed in subsection (b). A grade of "C" or above in any course used to meet the provisions of this subsection shall be required. Non-remedial coursework for the purposes of this section shall be defined as coursework that is applicable toward a bachelor's degree or a higher degree at a regionally accredited college or university.

(b) The following subjects may be added as specific degree authorization to a valid teaching credential specified in Education Code Section 44256(a) and (b):

Art History/Appreciation
Civics/Government
Dance
Drama/Theatre
Economics (social science)
English Composition
Geography
History
Instrumental Music
Language Arts
Literature
Three Dimensional Art
Two-Dimensional Art
Vocal Music

(c) A subject specified in subsection (b) as a specific degree authorization authorizes the holder to teach courses related to that subject in departmentalized classes in grades preschool and K-12.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 44225, Education Code. Reference: Sections 44225(e), 44256, Education Code.

	Introductory Supplementary Authorizations	Proposed Introductory Degree Authorization
Basic Credential	Multiple or Single Subject	Multiple or Single Subject
Authorization	MS: Grades 9 and below SS: Subject matter content 9 and below	Subject matter content 9 and below
Course work	Degree major OR 20 semester units or 10 upper division units with content area course work	Degree major OR 32 semester units with content area course work
Content Area Course Work	A course in each area	3 semester units in each area
Subject areas	All statutory single subjects	Core academic single subject areas

	Specific Supplementary Authorizations	Proposed Specific Degree Authorization
Basic Credential	Single Subject	Multiple or Single Subject
Authorization	K-12 including adults	K-12 including adults
Course work	Degree major OR 20 semester units or 10 upper division units	Degree major OR 32 semester units
Subject areas	Subjects within statutory single subjects	Subjects within core academic single subject areas