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# 6B

## Information

### *Professional Services Committee*

### **Discussion of Options to Obtain a SB 2042 Professional Clear Multiple and Single Subject Credential**

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**Executive Summary:** This item provides background information for a discussion about the options available for obtaining a SB 2042 Professional Clear Multiple and Single Subject Credential. Specifically, the discussion will focus on the Fifth Year requirement.

**Recommended Action:** None

**Presenters:** Mary Armstrong, Director,  
Professional Practices Division and Larry Birch,  
Administrator for Accreditation, Professional  
Services Division



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# Discussion of Options to Obtain a SB 2042 Professional Clear Multiple and Single Subject Credential

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## Introduction

At the February 2004 meeting of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, questions were raised by stakeholders about the Fifth Year of Study requirement and how it intersects with the induction requirement. In response to the concerns identified, the Commission directed staff to provide an overview of the statutes governing the two options for obtaining a professional clear teaching credential and a discussion of the following questions:

- May candidates choose either option to clear their credential?
- Is induction required of all candidates if it is available?
- May school districts require new teachers to complete an induction program?
- Does the Commission have the authority to require candidates to take induction?

## Background

The Fifth Year of Study was one of the requirements for attaining the Professional Clear Teaching credential under the original Ryan Act of 1970 and has remained in effect since that time. The purpose was to allow the new teacher to select a course or program of study designed to improve their competence and skills. In the years after the original Ryan Act, the Legislature added certain statutory course requirements that became a part of the Fifth Year.

In 1998 the Legislature amended Education Code Section 44259 (SB 2042, Statutes of 1998, Chapter 548) to add new requirements for the Multiple and Single Subject teaching credentials. That legislation was co-sponsored by the Commission and was in response to the earlier study of Multiple and Single Subject Credentials authorized by SB 1422 (Statutes of 1992, Chapter 1245). The SB 2042 legislation provided for the completion of an induction program as one of the requirements for the professional clear credential. In enacting SB 2042, the Legislature declared its intent “to implement standards that govern all aspects of teacher preparation, including subject matter knowledge, professional preparation, induction, and credential renewal; to strengthen teacher preparation by better integrating theory and practice, and to expand teacher induction programs and programs to attract qualified persons to teaching.”

As a result of the passage of SB 2042, Section 44259 (c) now specifies all of the following requirements for a Professional Clear Multiple or Single Subject Credential:

- Possession of a valid preliminary teaching credential or its equivalent;
- Subject to the availability of funds in the annual Budget Act to provide statewide access to eligible beginning teachers, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 44279.1, completion of a program of beginning teacher induction;

- Preparation, in accordance with commission standards, that addresses the following course areas:
  - 1) The study of health education, including study of nutrition, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the physiological and sociological effects of abuse of alcohol, narcotics, and drugs and the use of tobacco. Training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation shall also meet the standards established by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.
  - 2) The study and field experience in methods of delivering appropriate educational services to students with exceptional needs in regular education programs.
  - 3) The study, in accordance with the commission's standards of program quality and effectiveness, of advanced computer-based technology, including the uses of technology in educational settings
- Completion of an approved fifth-year program after completion of a baccalaureate degree at a regionally accredited institution.

Section 44259 (c) (5) eliminates the fifth-year program requirement for any candidate who has completed an induction program that has been approved for the professional clear credential. Candidates have five years to meet the requirements for the Professional Clear Credential.

The Legislature and the Commission recognize that the beginning years of a teacher's career are a critical time in which it is necessary that intensive professional development and assessment occur. The declaratory language in Education Code 44279.1 states that “Intensive professional development and assessment are necessary to build on the preparation that precedes initial certification, to transform academic preparation into practical success in the classroom, to retain greater numbers of capable beginning teachers, and to remove novices who show little promise as teachers.” Education Code 44279.1 also expresses that “It is the intent of the Legislature that the commission and the superintendent develop and implement policies to govern the support and assessment of beginning teachers, as a condition for the professional certification of those teachers in the future.” However, it was recognized that under certain circumstances, some teachers would not be able to complete an induction program because one was not available to them. For example, some new teachers may be assigned in remote geographical locations in which an induction program is not available. Other new teachers will be teaching in private schools, charter schools, prisons, or other non-traditional school settings. Finally, some preliminary credential holders may not be employed. Accordingly, the Fifth Year of Study remained in statute as an alternative route to the induction program.

In September 2001, the Commission adopted standards for the SB 2042 teacher preparation programs and an implementation plan that called for a two-year transition ending December 31, 2003. Standards for Professional Teacher Induction Programs were adopted in March 2002. On August 5, 2002, the Commission published Coded Correspondence 02-0015, which outlined three options preliminary credential holders could choose to earn a professional clear credential: a Commission approved Professional Teacher Induction Program; a Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program and the three additional course areas; and a Fifth Year of Study that includes the three additional course areas. It was anticipated that by the time that the SB 2042 teacher preparation standards were fully implemented, full funding would be available to provide statewide access to eligible beginning teachers, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 44279.1, for participation in an induction program.

In April 2003 the Commission reviewed the status of the implementation of SB 2042 and discussed questions that had evolved since the adoption of the SB 2042 standards relating to the requirements for completion of the professional level credential. The State's budget crisis and proposals to consolidate funding for BTSA into block grants to local education agencies raised questions about the statewide availability of induction programs. While the Commission indicated that completion of an induction program was still the preferred option for meeting the requirements of the professional clear teaching credential, it recognized that policy decisions around these questions could limit access to induction programs.

In light of the State's budget condition a year ago and the uncertainty regarding full funding for induction, the Commission was not able to determine that full funding had been achieved. The Fifth Year of Study remained the default option in case induction was not available. The Commission directed staff to send a Coded Correspondence to the field clarifying the options available (Coded Correspondence 03-0017). This Coded Correspondence was followed by Credential Information Alert 03-05 that provided additional information about the options available and how they would be implemented. The Alert also indicated that the Commission would send further information about the approval process for sponsors wishing to offer advanced study coursework and a Fifth Year of Study.

In September 2003, program sponsors were sent Submission Guidelines for Approval of the Fifth Year of Study Program and Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Advanced Study Coursework. (Only already approved program sponsors were eligible to submit programs and thus would have already responded to the Commission's eight Common Standards.) The four Commission adopted standards for Advanced Study Coursework required by statute are the same as those included in the Induction Standards. The Submission Guidelines are based upon existing Administrative Code Title 5, Section 80424, Fifth Year of Study that states the "The Commission shall permit a wide latitude for fifth year programs, including but not limited to the following purposes:

- Additional subject matter preparation including, but not limited to, pursuit of a master's or higher degree.
- Completion of an approved program for an advanced or specialized credential.
- Study undertaken for in-service training for which college or university credit is given.
- Study undertaken to complete an approved program of professional preparation.

### **Questions for Further Discussion**

*May candidates choose either option to clear their credential?* - Currently, candidates may choose either option since it does not appear that there is full funding to provide statewide access to eligible beginning teachers. No criteria have been established to make the determination of statewide access.

*Is induction required of all candidates if it is available?* The statute requires induction for all candidates, but only if there are funds available to provide statewide access.

*May school districts require new teachers to complete an induction program?* Pursuant to Education Code 44279.1 (c), BTSA programs are voluntary. If a district wished to require induction, that decision would be considered an employment requirement and subject to negotiation with the district's exclusive representative.

*Does the Commission have the authority to require candidates to take induction?* The law requires the completion of an induction program when funds are available in the annual Budget Act to provide statewide access to eligible beginning teachers. The law also requires the completion of the Fifth Year of Study but eliminates this requirement for candidates who have completed an induction program that has been approved for the professional clear credential. The Commission has already adopted induction as a requirement with the qualification that funds are available to provide statewide access. However, the underlying question is whether the Commission has the authority to determine that funds are available to provide statewide access to eligible beginning teachers. The statute does not indicate any criteria for making that determination.

A further question arises out of the previous four questions:

*Does the Commission have the authority to establish additional requirements for the Fifth Year of Study?* No, not without a change in statute. Under the provisions of Education Code Section 44225 (a) one of the powers and duties of the Commission is to “Establish professional standards, assessments, and examinations for entry and advancement in the education profession.” However, additional requirements for the Fifth Year of Study would have to be authorized by statute.