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## Information

### *Professional Services Committee*

#### **Proposed Preconditions for Selected Special Education Credential Programs and a Proposed Standard for Added Authorizations**

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**Executive Summary:** This agenda item presents the proposed Preconditions for selected Education Specialist Credential Programs for Commission consideration and a proposed new standard for the added authorization programs.

**Recommended Action:** For information only

**Presenter:** Jan Jones Wadsworth, Consultant, and Larry Birch, Director, Professional Services Division

#### **Strategic Plan Goal: 1**

#### **Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators**

- ◆ Sustain high quality standards for the preparation and performance of professional educators and for the accreditation of credential programs

December 2009



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# Proposed Preconditions for Selected Special Education Credential Programs and a Proposed Standard for Added Authorizations

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## Introduction

This agenda item continues reporting on the implementation of the Education Specialist reforms. In Part I of this item, Commission staff is presenting, for information, the Preconditions for the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential. The program standards for the Speech-Language Pathology program were approved at the January 2009 Commission meeting.

In addition, Part II of this agenda item presents one additional proposed program standard for the Added Authorization programs. While these standards approved at the October 2009 meeting imply a fieldwork component, staff recommends that the Commission consider adding a separate standard specifically about fieldwork for all of the Added Authorizations.

The Commission has adopted Added Authorization program standards for the following authorizations:

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Emotional Disturbance
- Orthopedically Impaired
- Other Health Impaired
- Deaf-Blind

## Part I: Proposed Preconditions for Speech-Language Pathology Credential Program

As noted in the October 2009 Commission agenda item, (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2009-10/2009-10-2D.pdf>), Preconditions are compliance requirements that must be met in order for an accrediting association or licensing agency to consider accrediting an institution, its programs or its schools. Preconditions determine a program sponsor's eligibility for accreditation. Some preconditions are based on state laws, while other preconditions are established by Commission policy. Previously, the Commission has adopted General Preconditions that apply to all credential programs.

Also at the October 2009 meeting, staff indicated that they would bring forward Preconditions for the Other Related Services Credential Programs at a later time. Staff has determined that Orientation and Mobility programs need to respond to the General Preconditions, but do not need any specialized program preconditions. Audiology programs also need to respond to the General Preconditions. Further, a specialized program precondition for Audiology was approved at the March 2009 Commission meeting. Finally, programs for the Speech-Language Pathology Credential also need to respond to the General Preconditions. The following specialized Program

Preconditions for Other Related Services Credentials in the area of Speech-Language Pathology Services Credentials are being presented for discussion.

In 2006, the Legislature specified certain requirements for the area of Speech-Language Pathology. Education Code §44265.3 specifies particular requirements for both the preliminary and clear credential for the Speech-Language Pathology Credential (Appendix A). In light of that the following preconditions are recommended:

**Preliminary Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential:**

1. A Commission-accredited program sponsor shall determine prior to recommending a candidate for a credential, that the candidate holds or has been recommended for a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from a program accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Council on Academic Accreditation.

**Clear Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential:**

1. A Commission-accredited program sponsor shall determine prior to recommending a candidate for a Clear Speech-Language Pathology Credential that the candidate has satisfied all of the following criteria:
  - a. The Candidate has a Preliminary Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential.
  - b. The Candidate holds a master's degree in speech-language pathology from a program accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, or an equivalent degree or academic program, as determined by the American Speech-Hearing Association
  - c. The Candidate has achieved a passing score, as determined by the American Speech-Hearing-Language Association's certification requirements on the Educational Testing Services's national teachers' Praxis series written test in speech-language pathology or a successor exam.
  - d. The Candidate has completed a mentored practical experience period, in the form of a 36 week, full-time mentored clinical experience, or an equivalent supervised practicum, as deemed by the Commission.

**Part II: Additional Program Standard for Added Authorization Programs**

In order to ensure that fieldwork is required of all Added Authorization Special Education (AASE) candidates in all Added Authorization programs, the Commission staff is recommending that the Commission adopt one additional program standard. The additional standard would be the *final* standard for each AASE program.

**ASD AASE Standard: Fieldwork for Candidates with ASD Added Authorization**

The approved Added Authorization Program will provide that each candidate completes coursework and supervised field work that addresses the competencies identified in the Added Authorization for **Autism Spectrum Disorders** Program Standards.

**TBI AASE Standard: Fieldwork for Candidates with Traumatic Brain Injury Added Authorization**

The approved Added Authorization Program will provide that each candidate completes coursework and supervised field work that addresses the competencies identified in the Added Authorization for **Traumatic Brain Injury** Program Standards.

**ED AASE Standard: Fieldwork for Candidates with Emotional Disturbance Added Authorization**

The approved Added Authorization Program will provide that each candidate completes coursework and supervised field work that addresses the competencies identified in the Added Authorization for **Emotional Disturbance** Program Standards.

**ECSE AASE Standard: Fieldwork for Candidates with Early Childhood Special Education Added Authorization**

The approved Added Authorization Program will provide that each candidate completes coursework and supervised field work that addresses the competencies identified in the Added Authorization for **Early Childhood Special Education** Program Standards.

**OI AASE Standard: Fieldwork for Candidates with Orthopedically Impaired Added Authorization**

The approved Added Authorization Program will provide that each candidate completes coursework and supervised field work that addresses the competencies identified in the Added Authorization for **Orthopedically Impaired** Program Standards.

**OHI AASE Standard: Fieldwork for Candidates with Other Health Impaired Added Authorization**

The approved Added Authorization Program will provide that each candidate completes coursework and supervised field work that addresses the competencies identified in the Added Authorization for **Other Health Impaired** Program Standards.

**DB AASE Standard: Fieldwork for Candidates with Deaf-Blind Added Authorization**

The approved Added Authorization Program will provide that each candidate completes coursework and supervised field work that addresses the competencies identified in the Added Authorization for **Deaf-Blind** Program Standards.

**Next Steps**

The proposed Preconditions and additional program standard for Added Authorizations in Special Education will be brought back to the Commission at the January 2010 meeting for consideration and possible approval.

## Appendix A

### California Education Code Section 44265.3

(a) Commencing January 1, 2007, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing shall issue the following credentials:

(1) A preliminary credential in speech-language pathology, to an individual who has been recommended by a commission-accredited program sponsor and who holds or has been recommended for a master's degree in speech-language pathology from a program accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Council on Academic Accreditation. The preliminary credential shall be valid for a period of two years.

(2) A professional clear credential in speech-language pathology to an individual who satisfies all of the following criteria:

(A) The individual holds a master's degree in speech-language pathology from a program accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Council on Academic Accreditation, or an equivalent degree or academic program, as determined by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

(B) The individual has achieved a passing score, as determined by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's certification requirements on the Educational Testing Service's national teachers' Praxis series written test in speech-language pathology or a successor exam.

(C) The individual has completed a mentored practical experience period, in the form of a 36-week, full-time mentored clinical experience, or an equivalent supervised practicum, as deemed by the commission.

(D) The individual satisfies other typical commission credentialing processing requirements, including, but not limited to, forms, fees, and fingerprint clearances.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to align the state credentialing requirements for personnel standards for California speech-language pathologists with standards for Medi-Cal local educational agency reimbursement, in order to ensure continued funding for the Local Education Agency (LEA) Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.

(c) A credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing on or before January 1, 2007, authorizing speech, language, and hearing services, shall continue to be valid, subject to commission renewal requirements.

(d) Upon renewal of a credential initially issued on or before January 1, 2007, the credential holder shall have the option of renewing the credential under the standards applicable prior to January 1, 2007, or to update the credential to satisfy the requirements of subdivision (a). At any time after January 1, 2007, the credential holder may update his or her credential, upon submission of an application and fee, and verification of requirements met in accordance with subdivision (a).

(e) To the extent allowable, as determined by the federal government, services provided by an individual with a credential for speech-language pathology, as specified in this section, shall be billable through the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.

## **Appendix B**

### **Example of Added Authorization with new Standard**

#### **Autism Spectrum Disorder Added Authorization Standards**

##### **ASD AASE Standard 1: Characteristics of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

The program provides opportunities for the candidate to be able to identify the unique characteristics of students within the autism spectrum. The candidate demonstrates unique knowledge of the core challenges associated with language and communication, cognition and neurology, social skills and behavior, processing and implications for program planning and service delivery.

##### **ASD AASE Standard 2: Teaching, Learning and Behavior Strategies for Students with ASD**

The program ensures each candidate is able to demonstrate knowledge, skills and abilities to become proficient in implementing evidence based and multi-faceted methodologies and strategies necessary in teaching and engaging students with ASD. The candidate is able to use appropriate assessment to drive program decisions. Candidates are able to implement learning strategies from acquisition to generalization. The candidate understands and appropriately utilizes behavioral based teaching strategies, structured teaching, use of visual supports and positive behavior supports.

##### **ASD AASE Standard 3: Collaborating with Other Service Providers**

The program will provide proactive monitoring opportunities for candidates with ASD to demonstrate skills as a member of a multidisciplinary team, including systems for collaborating with other service providers such as Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Pathologist, Paraprofessional, outside agencies etc.

##### **ASD AASE Standard 4: Fieldwork for Candidates with ASD Added Authorization**

The approved Added Authorization Program will provide that each candidate completes coursework and supervised field work that addresses the competencies identified in the Added Authorization for Autism Spectrum Disorders Program Standards.