



State Of California
California Commission On Teacher Credentialing
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SPECIALIST TEACHING CREDENTIALS IN READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential

The Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential authorizes the holder to provide the following services as a reading specialist in any grade level K-12, or in classes organized for adults:

1. Assist and support the classroom teacher in reading instruction and teaching strategies
2. Select and adapt reading instruction materials; plan and conduct reading staff development
3. Assess student progress and monitor student achievement in reading
4. Provide direct reading intervention work with students
5. Develop and coordinate reading programs at the school, district, or county level

Requirements for the Credential

The Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential may be issued to any teacher who satisfies **all** of the following requirements:

1. Possess a valid California teaching credential requiring a bachelor's or higher degree and a program of professional preparation, including student teaching
2. Complete a Commission-approved reading specialist program and obtain the formal recommendation of the California college or university where the program was completed

For Specialists Trained Outside of California

Reading and language arts specialists who completed their professional preparation at a regionally accredited college or university outside of California must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Possess a valid California teaching credential requiring a bachelor's or higher degree and a program of professional preparation, including student teaching
2. Complete a professional preparation program in the area of reading and language arts, including student teaching completed with a grade of "C" or better (Individuals who received a "pass," "credit," or "satisfactory" are assumed to have completed their student teaching or field work at a level equivalent to, or higher than, a grade of "C.")
3. Provide verification of issuance, or eligibility for, certification in the state where the program was completed

If the out-of-state preparation does not meet these requirements, the applicant should contact a California college or university with a Commission-approved reading and language arts specialist program and obtain a formal recommendation for the credential.

References: California Education Code, Section 44265 and Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 80066

[Click Here for the Approved Professional Preparation Programs](#)

Restricted Specialist Teaching Credential in Reading

The Restricted Specialist Teaching Credential in Reading authorizes service as a reading specialist in kindergarten and grades 1 through 6, and is available directly from the Commission only to reading specialists who previously held the Miller-Unruh Reading Specialist Certificate.

(continued)

For initial issuance of the restricted credential, applicants must satisfy **all** of the following requirements:

1. Possess a valid California teaching credential requiring a bachelor's degree and teacher preparation, including student teaching
2. Possess a Miller-Unruh Reading Certificate issued prior to June 30, 1987
3. Provide verification from current or previous employers of three years of teaching experience, including at least one year in a reading specialist position within the last five years
4. Submit official transcripts showing completion of **all** of the following college or university course work:
 - a. a basic course in the teaching of elementary school reading
 - b. a basic course in the teaching of elementary school language
 - c. a basic course in the diagnosis and remediation of reading
 - d. a course in directed clinical practice in the remediation of reading disabilities

► *These courses may be taken at any regionally-accredited four-year college or university. If the content is covered by fewer than four courses, or if the content is not clear from the course titles, course descriptions from the catalog or the head of the education department will be required.*
5. Submit a completed application ([form 41-4](#)) and half the current application fee (Applies to initial issuance only. See Fee Information [leaflet CL-659](#) for more information.)

The term of a clear specialist instruction credential is determined by the expiration date of the prerequisite teaching credential held, but may not exceed five calendar years.

References: California Education Code, Section 44265 and Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 80048 and 80048.1