



## BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENT

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The California Education Code and Title 5 Regulations specify, in most cases, that applicants for a credential, certificate, or permit to serve in the public schools of California must verify basic skills proficiency before the credential, certificate, or permit will be issued. For Multiple and Single Subject Teaching Credential candidates, the basic skills requirement must be met prior to being assigned to daily responsibility for whole class instruction in student teaching or serving as an intern. However, institutions may require the basic skills requirement prior to program enrollment. Contact the college or university education department for more information.

The basic skills requirement may also be required as a condition of employment. Applicants should contact the school district where they are considering employment for more information.

With the passage of Senate Bill 1209, additional options became available to meet the basic skills requirement. Passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) remains one of the options. New options include passage of the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET): Multiple Subject Plus Writing Examination and, effective January 1, 2007, a basic skills examination from another state is also acceptable.

Applicants for the following documents are exempt from the basic skills requirement:

1. Renewal, reissuance, or upgrading of existing non-emergency credentials, certificates, or permits unless it is specifically indicated as a renewal requirement on the document
2. An additional credential, certificate, or permit to teach when the applicant holds a non-emergency California teaching credential which required a bachelor's degree
3. Credentials issued solely for teaching adults in apprenticeship programs
4. Designated Subjects Credentials for which a bachelor's degree is not required
5. Certificates of Clearance
6. Child Development Permits
7. Health Services Credentials, unless the document also authorizes teaching
8. Candidates who are prelingually deaf. This includes all credential types that have basic skills as a requirement for those serving in state special schools or in special classes for pupils with hearing impairments. Prelingually deaf individuals who choose this option will be required to complete a job-related assessment.

Applicants for the following documents may serve on a credential for one year pending the completion of the basic skills requirement:

1. Exchange Credentials
2. One-Year Nonrenewable (OYNR) Credentials (some services and teaching credentials may be issued to applicants who have completed their professional training outside of California and who have met all of the requirements for an initial California credential except for completion of the basic skills requirement). Applicants for the OYNR credential must submit a completed application packet through a California school district or county office of education that includes written verification that they have offered employment to the credential applicant, **and** the applicant has passed a basic skills test developed by the district or county. (The district basic skills test does not replace the basic skills requirement.)
3. Out-of-State trained holders of the preliminary multiple subject, single subject, and education specialist credentials must complete the basic skills requirement during the first year of certification

## OPTIONS FOR MEETING THE BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENT

Individuals may satisfy the basic skills requirement by **one** of the following methods:

### 1. Pass the CBEST

Individuals only need to pass the CBEST once; CBEST passing scores remain valid indefinitely for all credential and employment purposes. To pass the CBEST, one must obtain a minimum scaled score of 41 in each of the three sections—reading, writing, and mathematics. However, a section score as low as 37 is acceptable if the total scaled score is at least 123. Any or all sections of the CBEST can be repeated as many times as necessary to obtain a passing score, but the full registration fee is charged for each test administration.

Additional information and instructions for test registration and administration processes may be obtained by contacting the CBEST program.

#### **CBEST Program**

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Please include your postal address in e-mail messages.

### 2. Pass the CSET: Multiple Subject Plus Writing Skills Examination

The California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET): Multiple Subjects examination has been modified, adding an assessment of basic writing skills which meets the basic skills requirement. The first administration of this examination was May 19, 2007. See [www.cset.nesinc.com](http://www.cset.nesinc.com) for more information.

### 3. Pass a Basic Skills Examination from Another State

The Commission will accept basic skills examinations from other states. A photocopy of the score report or letter from the testing agency verifying passage of the examination must be submitted with the application packet. There is no recency requirement for the date the examination was passed.