

AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES CREDENTIAL

Assembly Bill 544 (Chap. 324, Stats. 2009) requires the Commission to issue a new American Indian Languages Credential to an applicant who has met the following requirements:

- Demonstrated fluency in the tribe's language based on an oral and written assessment developed and administered by the federally recognized Indian tribe located in California.
- Successfully completed a criminal background check conducted under Sections 44339, 44340, and 44341 for credentialing purposes.
- Submitted an application, fee and recommendation for the credential to the Commission through the federally recognized Indian tribe.

Authorization

The American Indian Languages Credential authorizes the holder to teach the specific American Indian language listed on the document in departmentalized classrooms in preschool, grades kindergarten through 12, and in classes organized primarily for adults.

The American Indian Languages Credential does not authorize instruction in any other subject or setting unless the individual holds an additional, valid teaching credential or permit that authorizes the assignment. In addition, the American Indian Languages Credential is not an appropriate prerequisite credential for any other permit, credential or certificate and may not be used in conjunction with the local teaching assignment options that require possession of a teaching credential.

Application Process

Each American Indian Languages Credential shall be initially issued for a two-year period and may be renewed for a three-year period upon recommendation of the tribal government. Upon completion of the three-year period, the holder of an American Indian Languages Credential shall be eligible for a clear teaching credential for that language. Individuals would need to submit an application and processing fee along with the recommendation of the tribal government, in consultation with the applicant's public school employer.

Requirements for the Two-Year Preliminary Teaching Credential

Consideration of an American Indian Languages Credential will be based upon submission of **all** of the following:

1. Verification by a federally recognized American Indian tribe located in California of fluency in the tribe's language based on an oral and written assessment developed and administered by the tribal government, verified on form [CL-894](#), entitled *Recommendation Form/American Indian Languages Credential*
2. Recommendation from the representative tribal government, to be submitted on form [CL-894](#)

3. Completed application ([form 41-4 \[pdf\]](#)), and, if not previously submitted to the Commission, a completed Live Scan receipt ([form 41-LS \[pdf\]](#)). Out-of-state residents must submit two fingerprint cards in lieu of a Live Scan receipt. If submitting fingerprint cards, current fingerprint processing fees must accompany the application packet in addition to the application processing fee. Fingerprint cards may be ordered by sending an email to the Commission at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.
4. Application [processing fee](#)

Note: All applicants for this credential must be at least 18 years of age, as required under Education Code 44862.

Requirements for the Three-Year Preliminary Teaching Credential

Individuals must satisfy **all** of the following requirements:

1. Recommendation of the representative tribal government, submitted on form [CL-894](#)
2. Completed application ([form 41-4 \[pdf\]](#))
3. Application [processing fee](#)

Requirements for the Clear Credential

Individuals must satisfy **all** of the following requirements:

1. Recommendation of the representative tribal government, in consultation with the applicant's public school employer, verified on form [CL-894](#)
2. Completed application ([form 41-4 \[pdf\]](#))
3. Application [processing fee](#)

References: California Education Code Section 44262.5