

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Summary of Commission Responsibilities for major provisions of SB 1209

November 6, 2006

On September 28, 2006, the Governor signed SB 1209 (Scott) an omnibus education bill with impact in thirty different provisions of the Education Code. The bill takes effect January 1, 2007, but many of the activities it directed do not take place until later in 2007 or 2008. This E-News is the first in a series of communications that will be released over the next two years as the provisions of SB 1209 are implemented. There will be an item presented to the Commission at the November 30-December 1, 2006 meeting that describes the bill and its implementation plan.

Summarized below are the major provisions of SB 1209 that the Commission is responsible for implementing. Additional information will be provided as appropriate:

Professional Growth Requirements

Beginning January 1, 2007, the renewal of professional clear credentials will no longer be linked to professional growth requirements. This new development affects teaching and service credentials including Designated Subjects Credentials. The removal of professional growth as a credential requirement includes both the 150 hours of activities and the experience requirement. Child Development Permits will maintain a professional growth requirement for renewal.

Basic Skills Requirement

SB 1209 adds options to meet the basic skills requirement. The California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) remains as one of the options. A basic skills examination from another state will also be acceptable effective January 1, 2007.

Following the establishment of passing scores, the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) General Test, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Reasoning Test and the ACT Plus Writing test will also satisfy the basic skills requirement. The bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to set a passing score for this purpose for the GRE, SAT and ACT by July 31, 2007. SB 1209 also requires that by July 1, 2007, the CSET: Multiple Subjects examination to be modified to add an assessment of basic writing skills. Once modified, the CSET: Multiple Subject examination will also meet the basic skills requirement.

Out-of-State Prepared Teachers

SB 1209 changes the options available to out-of-state prepared teachers by directing the Commission to issue a five-year preliminary multiple subject, single subject or education specialist teaching credential to a teacher who meets the following requirements:

- Earned a teaching credential in a state other than California by completing a baccalaureate degree and a teacher preparation program or alternative program in a subject area that corresponds with an available California subject area.

- California requirements for fingerprint and character and identification clearance.
- Basic skills requirement (*If the applicant is not employed in California, he/she must satisfy the basic skills requirement before the five-year preliminary credential can be issued; if employed, the applicant must complete the basic skills requirement during the first year of their preliminary credential.*)

To simplify the options for earning a clear teaching credential and to ensure that teachers are prepared to educate students who are English learners, SB 1209 requires the following:

For teachers with less than two years of out-of-state teaching experience --

- Complete a Commission-approved beginning teacher induction program, or for the education specialist credential, a Level II education specialist credential program.
- Earn an authorization to teach English learners (either in California or out-of-state).

For teachers with two or more years of out-of-state teaching experience –

- Complete 150 hours of professional development or a Master’s degree or higher in a field related to the credential or an equivalent number of units from a regionally accredited university (evaluations and documentation of experience required).
- Earn an authorization to teach English learners (either in California or out-of-state).

If an out-of-state teacher meets these requirements based on course work completed out-of-state when first applying for a credential in California, the legislation directs the Commission to issue a clear credential instead of a preliminary credential.

Out-of-State English Learner Authorization

Teachers prepared out-of-state who hold a valid out-of-state credential that authorizes instruction of English learners may earn a CLAD Certificate by submitting an application, fee, and appropriate supporting materials to the Commission.

Out-of-Country Prepared Teachers

Education Code section 44274.5 pertaining to teachers prepared in other countries is updated to include Induction as a requirement to earn a clear credential.

Experienced Private School Teachers

Private school teachers with six or more years of teaching experience will also need to satisfy the requirement of teaching English learners to earn a professional clear credential.

Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA)

SB 1209 requires that the TPA be instituted as a statewide requirement for teacher preparation programs beginning July 1, 2008. Commission staff will present a TPA implementation plan to the February 2007 Commission meeting as part of the SB 1209 update.

Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA)

SB 1209 requires the Commission to conduct a public study session to consider the implications of incorporating the assessment of ability, skills and knowledge related to effective reading

instruction that is currently assessed by the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) within the teacher performance assessment (TPA) and report on the outcome of that session to the Legislature and the Governor by July 1, 2007.

CSET: Single Subject

The Commission is required to convene a public study session to discuss the implications of modifying all CSET: Single Subject examinations to include basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics and report to the Legislature no later than October 1, 2007.

Requirements for the Education Specialist Credential

SB 1209 requires the Commission to report to the Legislature and the Governor on the current process and requirements for obtaining a specialist credential in special education and recommend modifications to enhance and expedite these procedures by December 1, 2007. An agenda item is scheduled to be presented at Nov.-Dec. Commission meeting providing an update on activities completed to date and the plan for the completion of the review of the requirements for obtaining a specialist credential in special education.

Professional Clear Program Standards (Induction and Fifth Year programs)

The bill recasts requirements for professional clear credential programs (Induction and Fifth Year programs) to focus on application of knowledge and skills previously acquired in a preliminary credential. SB 1209 deletes references to “the study of” specific subjects in favor of applied knowledge and skill in the areas of health, mainstreaming, and advanced computer-based technology. Information will go to all program sponsors in January 2007, but the standards will not be revised until the study of BTSA Induction is completed, see next item.

Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA): Program Review

SB 1209 requires that by December 1, 2007, the SPI and the Commission report on the current status of the BTSA system. The report, at a minimum, is to review the articulation of teacher preparation programs and teacher induction programs to eliminate duplicative requirements and address certain areas, as specified.

By July 1, 2008, the SPI and the Commission are to review and revise (as necessary) the *Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Professional Teacher Induction Programs of March 2002* and ensure that these standards address the application of knowledge and skills previously acquired in a preliminary credential program and to remove any requirements or activities that require candidates to duplicate the acquisition of knowledge through coursework.

SB 1209 also specifies that, subject to verification and approval by an induction program director, a beginning teacher would not be required to demonstrate that an induction standard has been met, or complete an element of an approved induction program designed to assist a candidate in mastering a given standard, if the candidate previously met the induction standard while participating in a commission-approved preparation program.

Intern Programs and Funding

Increased funding of up to a total of \$3,500 (\$1,000 above the current state contribution of \$2,500 per intern) may be awarded to a school district or county office of education that meets

all new program requirements. Commission staff is developing procedures for the implementation of the Enhanced Intern Program and will notify the intern programs of the procedures before January 1, 2007.

*The following chart outlines the **projected** implementation plan for distribution of in-depth information on each given topic concerning SB 1209.*

Topic	Coded Correspondence	Commission Agenda Item
Professional Growth	November 2006	<i>none</i>
Basic Skills Requirement Out-of-State Exam CSET: Multiple Subject including writing assessment GRE, ACT, and SAT	December 2006 August 2007 ¹	June 2007
Out-of-State Prepared Teachers	December 2006	<i>none</i>
Out-of State English Learner Authorization	December 2006	<i>none</i>
Out-of Country Prepared Teachers	December 2006	<i>none</i>
Experienced Private School Teachers	December 2006	<i>none</i>
Teaching Performance Assessment		December 2006
RICA/TPA Study Session		April 2007
CSET: Single Subject Study Session		August 2007
Education Specialist Credential		December 2006
Professional Clear Program Standards	January 2007	<i>none</i>
Induction Program Review		June 2008
Intern Program Funding	December 2006	<i>none</i>

¹ or sooner, pending SPI action