



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date:	August 19, 2008	Number: 08-05
Subject:	Foundational-Level General Science Subject Matter Authorization	

Summary:

This notice is to alert all subject matter and teacher preparation program sponsors that on August 8, 2008 the Commission on Teacher Credentialing approved a Foundational-Level General Science authorization for Single Subject Credentials.

The new Foundational-Level General Science Credential authorizes instruction in general and introductory science in grades K-12, and integrated science grades K-8. Teachers holding this authorization are also considered "Highly Qualified" for the purpose of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The process to amend the regulations for the single subject teaching credential has been started. It is expected that the process will be completed in early 2009. Until the regulations are approved, no preliminary or intern single subject credentials with a Foundational-Level General Science authorization may be issued. But, the Commission is prepared to begin work with institutions interested in developing approved subject matter programs at this time.

Key Provisions:

Individual Candidates: An individual may meet the subject matter requirement for the Foundational-Level General Science authorization through either an examination or an approved subject matter program route (i.e., by passing two of the CSET Science subtests (Subtests 119 and 120) or completing an approved Foundational-Level General Science subject matter preparation program).

- * An individual who holds a multiple subject or other elementary teaching credential may earn a Single Subject Foundational-Level General Science authorization by satisfying the

Foundational-Level General Science subject matter requirement and completing a single subject pedagogy course.

- * An individual who holds a single subject or other secondary teaching credential in a subject area other than science may add the Foundational-Level General Science authorization by satisfying the Foundational-Level General Science subject matter requirement.
- * An individual who does not yet hold a credential must satisfy the subject matter requirement and complete an approved teacher preparation program in order to obtain a single subject credential authorizing Foundational-Level General Science.

Approved Subject Matter Programs: When an institution has been approved for a subject matter program (2004 standards) in one (or more) of the four science areas, it has responded to the adopted subject matter program standards including the area(s) of depth in Program Standard 15. The Foundational-Level General Science subject matter requires response to all program standards, with the exception of Program Standard 15. Thus, any institution with an approved SB 2042 science subject matter preparation program already has an approved Foundational-Level General Science subject matter preparation program. If a current program sponsor does not plan to offer a Foundational-Level General Science Subject Matter program and would like to have the program removed from the approved subject matter program listing (http://134.186.81.79/fmi/xsl/CTC_NewSubject/AllSubjects.xml), please contact Kathryn Polster.

If an institution would like to submit a Foundational-Level General Science subject matter program for review and approval, please consult both the a) *Subject Matter Requirements (SMRs) and the Program Standards for Foundational-Level General Science* and the b) *Handbook for all Science Subject Matter Programs* (links are provided in the Resources section of this PSA). If you have questions, please contact Helen Hawley as listed in the Contact Information.

Preliminary Teacher Preparation Programs: As soon as the Title 5 regulatory process has been completed, any institution with an approved single subject teacher preparation program in any of the four areas of science is approved to recommend candidates for a single subject Foundational-Level General Science preliminary or internship credentials.

If an institution with an approved single subject teacher preparation program is not currently approved to offer a science single subject preparation program, but would like to offer single subject teacher preparation in one or more areas of science, the program will need to respond to **Program Standard 8B(b): Pedagogical Preparation for Subject-Specific Content Instruction by Single-Subject (SS) Candidates.** Responses to Program Standard 8B(b) can be submitted to Dr. Terry Janicki as listed in the Contact Information.

Sources and References:

- a) *Subject Matter Requirements and Adopted Subject Matter Program Standards for Foundational-Level General Science programs:* <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/SSMP-Foundational-Science.pdf>

b) *Science Teacher Preparation in California: Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Subject Matter Programs*: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/SSMP-Handbook-Science.pdf>

Commission Agenda (August 2008): <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2008-08/2008-08-3E.pdf>

Contact Information:

The Professional Services Division provides a full list of topic specific dedicated email addresses as well as program areas with the most up to date Commission staff member's email address here: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PSD-contact.html>.

Examinations:

CSET web page: <http://www.cset.nesinc.com/> or email exams@ctc.ca.gov