



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: April 29, 2009

Number: 09-04

Subject: Requirements for the Clear Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential: Implications of the Teacher Credentialing Block Grant (TCBG) Reformulation

## Summary

On February 20, 2009 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a package of bills including SBX3 4 Section 15, *Education Code* Section 42605, designed to revise the 2008-09 enacted budget and also put into place a 2009-10 budget which both provide local education agencies (LEAs) spending flexibility. As you are aware, the state's economic situation has deteriorated precipitously since the enactment of the 2008-09 budget last September; the flexibility provided by the budget package is unprecedented. The Teacher Credentialing Block Grant (TCBG) is one of the categorical programs affected by the various flexibility provisions contained in the budget package as stipulated in SBx3 4. LEAs will be able to redirect funding from 39 categorical programs to "any educational purpose." **However, it is important to understand that the clear credential requirement of completion of an approved induction program for an individual who holds an SB 2042 multiple or single subject teaching credential has not been altered due to these fiscal structural changes.**

The purpose of this Program Sponsor Alert is to: 1) provide background licensure information, 2) provide guidance to preliminary multiple and single subject credential programs regarding advice and assistance to candidates for preliminary multiple subject and single subject teaching credentials, 3) provide guidance for continued administration of an approved BTSA Induction Program, and 4) provide guidance for approved Clear Credential Preparation Programs.

## Background

The SB 2042 (Chap. 548, Stats. 1998) reform had many goals, one of which is especially pertinent to the issues related to professional preparation discussed in this memo:

An expectation that teachers complete a two-year induction program of support and formative assessment during the first two years of teaching before earning a clear teaching credential.

The vision of SB 2042, based on the recommendations of the precursor SB 1422 (Chap. 1254, Stats. 1992) panel, was to reconceptualize the “Learning to Teach” continuum as three years of situated learning. The one-year preliminary preparation program was envisioned as the period when the individual acquires the initial knowledge, skills, and abilities to be a teacher. The following two-year induction period would be the time when the beginning teacher puts pedagogical theories and content knowledge into practice in an actual classroom while under the guidance of a trained support provider. Induction was designed to be completed while the beginning teacher has his or her own classroom with K-12 students.

Education Code §44259 (c) requires that the minimum requirements for the clear Multiple or Single Subject teaching credential shall include completion of a program of beginning teacher induction, including one of the following in cooperation with one or more local school districts, that addresses the individual professional needs of beginning teachers and meets the Commission's standards of induction:

- (1) A program of beginning teacher support and assessment approved by the Commission and the Superintendent (Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment [BTSA] Induction) or;
- (2) an alternative program of beginning teacher induction that is sponsored by a regionally accredited college or university (Institution of Higher Education [IHE] Induction),

This same section of the Education Code states: “If an approved induction program is verified as unavailable to a beginning teacher, or if the beginning teacher is required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6301 et seq.) to complete subject matter coursework to be qualified for a teaching assignment, the commission shall accept completion of an approved fifth-year program.” If neither a BTSA Induction nor an IHE Induction program is available to a beginning teacher, then an approved Clear Credential program (formerly known as a 5<sup>th</sup> Year of Study Program) meets the requirement for a clear credential.

### **Guidance for Preliminary Multiple and Single Subject Credential Programs**

It is the responsibility of all approved preliminary multiple and single subject credential programs to advise applicants, candidates, and those who complete the program of the responsibility and requirements to earn a clear teaching credential. BTSA Induction has been the avenue through which most preliminary credential holders have earned the clear teaching credential over the past few years.

If a preliminary credential holder does not find a teaching position, an approved Induction program may not be available to the individual. If the credential holder is not employed as a teacher, then he or she is not eligible to complete a Clear Credential program. The individual holding the preliminary teaching credential may need to wait until he or she finds a teaching position to complete the requirements for the clear teaching credential.

Those who complete a preliminary teacher preparation program should be advised that should an individual be unable to complete the requirements for the clear teaching credential within the five year term of the preliminary teaching credential, an extension of the preliminary teaching credential may be requested. Additional information may be found in coded correspondence 09-05 <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2009/0905.pdf>

### **Guidance for Holders of a Preliminary Teaching Credential**

Individuals who complete a preliminary teacher preparation program and receive a five-year preliminary teaching credential **must earn a clear teaching credential** by completing one of the following options:

#### ***Option 1***

Complete a Commission-approved Teacher Induction Program through an approved school district, county office of education, college or university, or consortium. Individuals applying for a clear credential under Option 1 must submit their application through their approved induction program sponsor.

Individuals employed in private schools may participate in an approved induction program but are not supported by state funding.

It is the responsibility of the individual approved induction program to determine the cost, if any, to the teacher for participation. The fee for the induction program should be clearly indicated in the advising documentation and shared with the participating teacher prior to enrolling in the approved induction program.

#### ***Option 2***

If an approved induction program is verified to be unavailable to a beginning teacher then the individual may complete a Commission-approved clear credential teacher preparation program (previously a fifth year program) offered by a California college or university. The employer of a preliminary credential holder must complete and sign the “*Verification of Unavailability of a Commission Approved Induction Program*” (Form CL 855) stating that Induction is not available to the individual to allow that person to utilize the Clear Credential program route to earn a clear credential:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/050010/050010.pdf>.

Individuals employed in private schools or other teaching positions may be eligible for enrollment in an approved clear credential program.

The institution sponsoring the approved clear credential program must submit the recommendation for the clear teaching credential.

#### ***Option 3***

Teachers who are certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards will be issued a Clear Teaching Credential in the subject area in which they have received national certification. Individuals applying for the clear credential under Option 3 may

apply directly to the Commission for a clear teaching credential. ([More information about this option](#))

## **Guidance for Approved BTSA Induction Programs**

### ***Fiscal Information***

The provisions of SBx3 4 allow for fiscal flexibility of monies previously designated for categorical programs, including approved BTSA Induction programs under the Teacher Credentialing Block Grant (TCBG). Lead LEA's will continue to receive funds previously designated for the TCBG. These funds can now be used for any educational purpose as determined by the lead LEA. The California Department of Education administers these funds to LEAs. Further funding information will be posted on the CDE's web page: [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov).

### ***Credential Licensure and Accreditation Information***

Funding of BTSA Induction Programs and Accreditation of BTSA Induction Programs are two separate processes. Approved BTSA Induction programs must continue to meet the [Standards for Quality and Effectiveness for Professional Teacher Induction Programs](#) and participate in the Commission on Teacher Credentialing approval and accreditation processes.

No changes have been made to the CTC approved program and licensure requirements, including the program approval process, accreditation activities, and the responsibilities of approved educator preparation programs. Completion of a Commission-approved induction program is the required route for a SB 2042 preliminary multiple or single subject teaching credential holder to earn a SB 2042 clear multiple subject or single subject teaching credential. An approved induction program must continue to meet all adopted program standards to recommend individuals for a clear teaching credential.

## **Guidance for Approved Clear Credential (5<sup>th</sup> Year of Study) Preparation Programs**

Although, completion of a Commission-approved induction program is the required route to earn an SB 2042 clear multiple subject or single subject teaching credential, if a beginning teacher is eligible for induction but an employing agency verifies that induction is not available, he or she may complete a Commission-approved clear credential program. An employing agency is defined in regulation as "public school districts, county offices of education, schools that operate under the direction of a California state agency, nonpublic, nonsectarian schools and agencies, charter schools and private schools."

The employing agency will determine if the beginning teacher completes an induction program or is eligible to complete an approved clear credential program. A *Verification of Unavailability of a Commission-Approved Induction Program* (Form CL-855) must be completed by the employing agency to allow a beginning teacher with a preliminary multiple subject or single subject credential issued on or after August 30, 2004 to complete an approved clear credential program.

It is the responsibility of the college or university admitting a teacher into an approved clear credential program to make sure that the individual provides documentation from an employing agency verifying that induction is not available to the teacher; and therefore, the teacher may complete an approved clear credential program. The approved clear credential program must submit the recommendation for the clear credential once the individual completes the clear credential program.

## Questions:

### **1. Question: Does a participating teacher have to clear his/her preliminary credential if a BTSA Induction Program is not offered by the employing district?**

**Answer:** Yes. Options for eligible participating teachers to earn their clear credentials if a BTSA Induction Program is not offered by the employer are discussed above.

### **2. Question: Can an approved BTSA Induction program require beginning teachers to pay a fee for participating in the induction program?**

**Answer:** Yes. The fee for the induction program must be clearly indicated in the advising documentation and shared with the participating teacher prior to enrollment in the BTSA Induction Program.

### **3. Question: How are approved BTSA Induction Programs affected by the flexibility of TCBG funds?**

**Answer:** Funding of BTSA Induction Programs and Accreditation of BTSA Induction Programs are two separate processes. Flexibility in the use of TCBG funds does not alter the [Standards for Quality and Effectiveness for Professional Teacher Induction Programs](#) or the approval and accreditation processes for BTSA Induction Programs.

### **4. Question: Are there legal obligations that approved BTSA Induction Programs have to the current participating teachers?**

**Answer:** Approved educator preparation programs have a responsibility to current participants. Either the program must allow the current participants to complete the program and earn the credential, or assist the current participants in finding and transitioning to another approved BTSA Induction or Clear Credential program.

### **5. Question: Can an approved BTSA Induction Program be withdrawn and the LEA use the TCBG funds for other local purposes?**

**Answer:** Yes. While implementing the state budget flexibility provisions authorized by SBX3 4, LEAs may use the funds provided by TCBG for any educational purpose. Withdrawing an approved BTSA Induction program is a request that must go before the Committee on Accreditation (COA) at a regularly scheduled COA meeting. For additional information please consult the [Information for BTSA Induction Programs Considering Not Operating in 2009-10](#).

**References:**

***Program Standards***

Induction Programs

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/Induction-Program-Standards.pdf>

Clear Credential Programs: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/FifthYearStudySubguide.pdf>

***Extensions of Preliminary Multiple and Single Subject Teaching Credentials***

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2009/0905.pdf>

***Information for BTSA Induction Programs Considering Not Operating in 2009-10***

<http://www.btsa.ca.gov/files/Information-for-BTSA-Induction-Programs-Considering-Not-Operating-in-2009.doc>

**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>.