

**COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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03-0025

DATE: October 6, 2003

TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the California  
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

FROM: Sam W. Swofford, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Subject Matter Examination Requirement for Multiple Subject Credential  
Candidates

Public Law 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), requires all teachers "new to the profession" who receive a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential or a Multiple Subject Intern Credential to demonstrate subject matter competency by exam, according to the following timeline:

- Teachers in Title I schools or classrooms by July 1, 2002
- Teachers in all other schools by June 30, 2006

To conform with NCLB and the California State Board of Education's State Plan, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing took the following action at its October, 2003 meeting regarding the subject matter examination requirement for **Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials**:

**Exam Requirement Timeline**

- Pursuant to the Commission's action, multiple subject candidates who enroll in a teacher preparation program on or after July 1, 2004 will be required to demonstrate subject matter competency by passing a Commission-approved examination, currently the *California Subject Examination for Teachers: Multiple Subjects (CSET)*. Multiple subject candidates will no longer be eligible to complete a multiple subject matter preparation program in lieu of taking a Commission-approved subject matter examination.
- Candidates who enroll in a professional teacher preparation program on or after July 1, 2004, must meet the subject matter competency requirement by passing a Commission-approved subject matter exam prior to taking responsibility for whole class instruction (student teaching) or becoming the teacher of record. The Commission-approved subject

matter exam is currently the *California Subject Examination for Teachers: Multiple Subjects (CSET)*.

### **Candidates Who Are Currently Enrolled in an Elementary Subject Matter Preparation Program**

- Candidates who are currently enrolled in an elementary subject matter preparation program must complete that program and enroll in a professional teacher preparation program prior to July 1, 2004, in order to be eligible for a credential without passing the Commission-approved subject matter examination as a requirement for the credential. If a candidate enrolls in a professional teacher preparation program on or after July 1, 2004, the candidate will be required to pass the Commission-approved subject matter examination as a requirement for the credential. Please see Coded Correspondence 01-0019 for a review of program completion dates relative to the transition from Ryan elementary subject matter preparation programs to SB 2042 elementary subject matter preparation programs.

### **Candidates Who Completed an Elementary Subject Matter Preparation Program and are Currently Enrolled in a Multiple Subject Professional Teacher Preparation Program**

- Candidates who completed an elementary subject matter program and who are currently enrolled in a professional teacher preparation program for the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential may be recommended for the credential if they complete their credential program within two years after the date of enrollment, pursuant to EC §44252.1 (Goldberg, Chapter 565, Statutes of 2001).

### **Candidates Who Are Currently Enrolled in a Blended/Integrated Program of Undergraduate Teacher Preparation**

- Candidates who are currently enrolled in a Ryan blended/integrated program of undergraduate teacher preparation, and who remain continuously enrolled, may be recommended for the credential if they complete the credential program by December 31, 2008, pursuant to EC §44252.1 (Goldberg, Chapter 565, Statutes of 2001). Please see Coded Correspondence 01-0019 for a review of program completion dates relative to the transition from Ryan professional teacher preparation programs to SB 2042 professional teacher preparation programs.
- Candidates who are currently enrolled in an SB 2042 blended/integrated program of undergraduate teacher preparation, and who remain continuously enrolled, may be recommended for the credential if they complete the credential program by June 30, 2009, pursuant to EC §44252.1 (Goldberg, Chapter 565, Statutes of 2001).

### **Requirements for Sponsors of Multiple Subject Professional Teacher Preparation Programs**

- Sponsors of Multiple Subject Professional Teacher Preparation Programs (traditional, blended, and/or intern) will be required to submit documentation to the Commission demonstrating that each multiple subject credential candidate meets the subject matter exam requirement prior to whole class instruction (student teaching) or becoming the teacher of record. The timeline, the new program Precondition relative to subject matter

exam verification, and the process for expedited document review will be provided in a future Coded Correspondence.

- Sponsors of Multiple Subject Professional Teacher Preparation Programs will be required to submit a revised program document responding to the new modification to Professional Teacher Preparation Program Standard 17, "Candidate Qualifications for Teaching Responsibilities in the Field Work Sequence." The timeline, the modified program standard relative to the subject matter examination requirement, and the process for expedited document review will be provided in a future Coded Correspondence.
- Sponsors of Commission-approved Multiple Subject Matter Preparation Programs, and sponsors of Commission-approved Professional Teacher Preparation Programs are responsible for notifying candidates of the subject matter examination requirement.

Please be advised that employment decisions regarding NCLB compliance rest with the employing school district.

### **Questions**

If you have questions concerning the implementation of the subject matter examination requirement, please call Amy Jackson of the Commission's Professional Services Division between 8 AM and 5 PM Monday through Friday at (916) 445-4102. You may also email your questions to [ajackson@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:ajackson@ctc.ca.gov).

**Candidate Timeline for the Multiple Subject Matter Examination Requirement**

**Prior to July 1, 2004**

**After July 1, 2004**

<b>Subject Matter Exam NOT Required for Multiple Subject Credential</b>	<b>Subject Matter Exam Required for Multiple Subject Credential</b>
<p><b>The candidate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must complete an elementary subject matter preparation program and enroll in a professional teacher preparation program prior to July 1, 2004</li> <li align="center">or</li> <li>• must have completed an elementary subject matter preparation program and be currently enrolled in a professional teacher preparation program prior to July 1, 2004</li> <li align="center">or</li> <li>• must be currently and continuously enrolled in a Ryan blended/integrated program of undergraduate teacher preparation, and complete that program by December 31, 2008</li> <li align="center">or</li> <li>• must be currently and continuously enrolled in an SB 2042 blended/integrated program of undergraduate teacher preparation, and complete that program by June 30, 2009.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The candidate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enrolls in a professional teacher preparation program, or a blended/integrated program of undergraduate teacher preparation, on or after July 1, 2004</li> </ul>