

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

From: Dr. Sam W. Swofford
Executive Director

Subject: Changes in Professional Teacher Preparation Program Standards
and Preconditions

On November 6, 2003, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC or Commission) took action to modify the *Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Professional Teacher Preparation Programs*. Changes were made in Professional Teacher Preparation Program Precondition 6 - Subject Matter Proficiency, and Program Standard 17 - Candidate Qualifications for Teaching Responsibilities in the Fieldwork Sequence.

The purpose of this coded correspondence is to inform interested parties of the change in the CCTC Teacher Preparation Standards to require passage of the California Subject Examinations for Teachers: Multiple Subjects (CSET MS) prior to allowing the candidate to assume whole class instruction in student teaching or to become the teacher of record as an intern. This coded correspondence also addresses how this change in requirements affects single subject and education specialist teacher candidates. These changes pertain to any candidate who enrolls in a professional teacher preparation program on or after July 1, 2004.

Background

In order to align credential requirements with California's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Plan, the Commission took action in August 2003, to modify subject matter competence

requirements for the multiple subject credential by requiring these candidates to pass a Commission-approved subject matter examination. In October, the CCTC took action to approve placing the subject matter examination requirement for multiple subject candidates within the standards for professional teacher preparation rather than in the standards for subject matter preparation.

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 prior to commencing daily whole class student teaching or serving as teacher of record as an intern. For a complete explanation of changes in the subject matter examination requirement for multiple subject credential candidates, see Coded Correspondence 03-0025.

Effective July 1, 2004 candidates who complete approved elementary subject matter preparation programs will no longer be eligible for the subject matter examination waiver. Although approved subject matter programs for multiple subject candidates will no longer be an adequate or appropriate basis for waiving the subject matter examination, the *Standards of Program Quality and Effectiveness for the Subject Matter Requirement for the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential* remain intact. Approved subject matter programs are aligned with the California Academic Content Standards and the current content specification for the subject matter examination. The Commission is presently reviewing its policies and procedures relating to the approval of elementary subject matter programs.

Single Subject candidates and Education Specialist (Special Education) teacher candidates continue to have the option of satisfying subject matter competence by examination or by completion of an approved program. Subject matter examinations and approved programs are available in all thirteen single subjects authorized by Education Code Section 44257.

Changes in CCTC Preconditions and Standards of Program Quality and Effectiveness for Professional Teacher Preparation Programs

Below are the new Professional Teacher Preparation Program Precondition 6, and the revised Required Element for Program Standard 17. These changes pertain to any candidate who enrolls in a professional teacher preparation program on or after July 1, 2004.

New Professional Teacher Preparation Program Precondition 6

- (6) Subject Matter Proficiency.** The approved teacher preparation program sponsor determines that each candidate meets the subject matter requirement prior to student teaching, or, for intern candidates, before being given daily whole class instructional responsibilities in a K-12 school or before becoming the teacher of record in a K-12 school. *Reference: Education Code Section 44259 (b) (5).*

- For Multiple Subject programs (traditional, internship, and/or blended/integrated), the candidate provides evidence of having passed the appropriate subject matter examination(s).
- For Single Subject programs (traditional and/or internship), the candidate provides evidence of having passed the appropriate subject matter examination(s) or having completed the appropriate Commission-approved subject matter preparation program, or a course of study deemed equivalent by the program sponsor.
- For Single Subject blended/integrated programs, the candidate provides evidence of having passed the appropriate subject matter examination(s), or having completed at least four-fifths (4/5) of the appropriate Commission-approved subject matter preparation program, or a course of study deemed equivalent by the program sponsor.

This new program precondition is added to the Multiple and Single Subject Professional Preparation Programs adopted by the CCTC on May 2, 2002. The current Professional Teacher Preparation Program Precondition 6, "Completion of Requirements," will be renumbered as Professional Teacher Preparation Program Precondition 7.

Revised Required Element 17 (a) of Professional Teacher Preparation Program Standard 17

Program Standard 17: Candidate Qualifications for Teaching Responsibilities in the Fieldwork Sequence

Qualified members of the professional teacher preparation program determine and document the satisfactory qualifications and developmental readiness of each candidate prior to (1) being given instructional responsibilities with K-12 students and (2) being given daily whole-class instructional responsibilities in a K-12 school.

(The language of Program Standard 17 is provided here for continuity, even though the language of the Standard was not changed.)

Required Element 17 (a): Candidate Qualifications for Teaching Responsibilities in the Fieldwork Sequence

17(a) Prior to student teaching, or, for intern candidates, prior to being given daily responsibility for whole class instruction in a K-12 school or becoming the teacher of record in a K-12 school, each candidate fulfills the state basic skills requirement, and also verifies completion of subject matter competence.

- Multiple Subject candidates (traditional, internship, and/or blended/integrated) must provide evidence of having passed the appropriate subject matter examination(s).

- Single Subject candidates in traditional and/or in internship programs must provide evidence of having passed the appropriate subject matter examination(s) or having completed the appropriate Commission-approved subject matter preparation program, or a course of study deemed equivalent by the program sponsor.
- Single Subject candidates in blended/integrated programs must provide evidence of having passed the appropriate subject matter examination(s), or having completed at least four-fifths (4/5) of the appropriate Commission-approved subject matter preparation program, or a course of study deemed equivalent by the program sponsor.

Explanation

This revised language requires teacher candidates and interns to demonstrate subject matter competence prior to commencing whole class student teaching or intern teaching. The original Standard 17 and Required Element 17(a) approved in September 2001, allowed candidates to begin whole class student teaching or intern teaching if the candidate had completed all of the appropriate subject matter examination or four-fifths of the approved subject matter program in the content area. Since the four-fifths of coursework option no longer meets the requirements of the State's NCLB plan adopted by the State Board of Education, this option was eliminated.

For Commission-approved blended or integrated programs for Single Subject Credentials as authorized by Education Code Section 44259.1, candidates may begin whole class student teaching with four-fifths of the appropriate Commission-approved subject matter program.

Approved Teacher Preparation Programs should revise their programs to comply with these changes in Preconditions and Standards before July 1, 2004, but it is not necessary to provide written verification until the next scheduled on-site accreditation review.

Questions

If you have questions concerning the implementation of approved Professional Teacher Preparation Programs, please contact Larry Birch, Administrator in the Professional Services Division between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at (916) 327-2967 or email to lbirch@ctc.ca.gov.