

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

1900 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, California 95814-4213
(916) 322-6253



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 4, 2006

06-0007

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

From: Dr. Sam W. Swofford, Executive Director

Subject: Alternative Route to Provide Speech and Language Services

Changes in federal standards governing Medicaid funding reimbursement to school districts for speech and language services has raised questions concerning the appropriate authorization to receive the federal funding. California's Attorney General has concluded that the Commission-issued Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential does not meet the new requirements for Medicaid reimbursement.

The requirements in the alternative route in Education Code (EC) Section 44831 are appropriate for the reimbursement. Effective October 1, 1999, Assembly Bill 466 (Mazzoni) established an alternative route in EC Section 44831 for assigning individuals to provide speech and language services in California public schools. Details concerning this alternative route were originally announced in Coded Correspondence 99-9930, dated December 21, 1999.

Individual employed in a district providing speech and language services to students that qualify for the Medicaid reimbursement, the individuals will need to meet the requirements in EC Section 44831. This does not preclude the individual from also holding a document issued by the Commission for speech and language services as shown below. If the students do not require Medicaid reimbursement, the individual may hold either one of the documents listed below that authorizes providing speech and language services or meet the requirements for EC Section 44831.

The following credentials authorize service as an itinerant speech clinician or speech and hearing therapist:

- Special Secondary--Correction of Speech Defects
- Exceptional Children--Speech Correction and Lip Reading
- Standard Teaching Credential with Minor--Speech and Hearing Handicapped
- Standard Restricted Special Education--Speech and Hearing Therapy
- Standard Limited Specialized Preparation--Speech and Hearing Handicapped
- Clinical or Rehabilitative Services--Language, Speech and Hearing

On the following page is the information concerning the alternative route to provide speech and language services included in Coded Correspondence 99-9930.

AB 466 made changes to Education Code Section 44831 to provide flexibility to enable employing agencies to more easily employ qualified individuals to serve in the shortage area of speech and hearing. EC §44831 may be found below. It is important to note that the use of this assignment option is voluntary by an employing agency and does not result in the issuance of a credential by the Commission.

Under the provisions of this statute, the governing board of a school district or a county office of education may contract or employ an individual to provide speech and language services if the individual has verified the following:

- 1) master's degree in communicative disorders,
- 2) valid license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board,
- 3) passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST), and
- 4) the criminal record summary pursuant to EC §44332.6.

The master's degree must be in a communicative disorders/language, speech and hearing therapy area such as speech and hearing sciences, speech pathology and audiology, or language, speech and hearing disorders from a regionally accredited college or university.

Individuals employed under this option should be listed by the county offices of education in the category "Other Legal Authority Not Noted Elsewhere in this Report" when reporting to the Commission on the annual monitoring of the certificated assignments under the provisions of EC §44258.9. For monitoring purposes, the employing agency should keep a record of all the requirements for the option, including the degree, passage of CBEST, the criminal record summary, and the valid license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.

For information regarding the license from the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board, contact:

California Department of Consumer Affairs
California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board
1422 Howe Avenue #3
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 263-2666

Education Code Section 44831.

Governing boards of school district shall employ persons in public school service requiring certification qualifications as provided in this code, except that the governing board or a county office of education may contract with or employ an individual who holds a license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board and has earned a masters degree in communication disorders to provide speech and language services if that individual meets the requirements of Sections 44332.6 and 44830 before employment or execution of the contract.

Questions

If you have questions concerning this assignment option, please call the Commission's Information Services Section between 1 and 4:45 pm Monday through Friday at (916) 445-7254 or (888) 921-2682 if you are calling from outside of the 916 area code. You may also send an e-mail to credentials@ctc.ca.gov.