

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

1900 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, California 95814-4213
(916) 322-6253
Fax (916) 445-0800

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Date: December 15, 2006

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

FROM: Dale A. Janssen, Interim Executive Director

SUBJECT: Options for Meeting the Basic Skills Proficiency Requirement

Background

Demonstration of proficiency in basic skills via examination is a requirement for credentials granted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The primary examination adopted by the Commission and used for this purpose to date has been the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST). Recent legislation, however, has made additional options available for candidates to demonstrate proficiency in basic skills. Each of these options pursuant to SB 1209 (Chapter 517, Statutes of 2006) are described below.

Option 1: For Multiple Subject Credential Candidates Only

Multiple subject candidates will be able to meet the basic skills requirement beginning in May, 2007 by taking and passing the *CSET: Multiple Subjects Plus Writing Skills* examination. This examination will consist of the current *CSET: Multiple Subjects* examination plus an additional basic skills writing examination similar to the current *CBEST Writing* examination. The additional basic skills writing examination will be offered in the afternoon on the same date and at the same locations as the *CSET: Multiple Subjects* examination. Candidates will be able to sign up for the additional *CSET: Multiple Subjects Writing Skills* examination at the same time as they register for the *CSET: Multiple Subjects* examination. Additional information about this examination, test registration procedures, and fees will be available on the web in late December, 2006 at www.cset.nesinc.com.

Option 2: For All Candidates

SB 1209 (Chapter 517, Statutes of 2006) broadens the array of examinations that may be used by all candidates to demonstrate proficiency in basic skills. As of July 1, 2007, the examinations that may be used by candidates to demonstrate basic skills proficiency will be the following:

- the CBEST examination (all sections)
- the CSET: Multiple Subjects Plus Writing examination (for Multiple Subject candidates only)
- the ACT Plus Writing examination
- the GRE (Graduate Record) examination
- the SAT Reasoning examination

A basic skills passing score standard will be determined for the ACT Plus Writing, the GRE, and the SAT Reasoning examinations by the Superintendent of Public Instruction by July 1, 2007. The established passing score standard for the CBEST examination, including the writing assessment subtest, will remain unchanged.

Candidates may not take part of one test and part of another in order to meet the basic skills requirement, but must select and pass one of the five allowable examinations listed above. Candidates who have already taken one of the allowable additional examinations (ACT Plus Writing, GRE, or SAT Reasoning) and who want to use that score to satisfy the basic skills requirement must provide an official score report from the applicable testing company.