

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 21, 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: Consolidation of the Bilingual Crosscultural Language and Academic Development (BCLAD) Examinations with the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET): Languages Other Than English Examinations

Background

The BCLAD examination is currently used by credential candidates and by credential holders as a means of earning a bilingual authorization to instruct K-12 students in both English and in the target language. Candidates must also have a prior authorization to teach English learners before being eligible to earn a bilingual authorization. The BCLAD examination currently has three subtests: Test 4, Bilingual Methodology; Test 5: Culture; and Test 6: Language.

The CSET: Languages Other than English (LOTE) examinations are currently used by credential candidates and credential holders as a means of demonstrating subject matter competency as part of the requirements to earn a Single Subject Foreign Language authorization. The CSET: LOTE examinations currently have three subtests: I: General linguistics and linguistics of the target language; II, Literary and cultural texts and traditions; and III, Language (listening, speaking, reading, writing).

After the June 2007 administration of the BCLAD examination, the BCLAD series of examinations will cease to be offered separately and instead the subtests of the BCLAD and the CSET: LOTE examinations will be combined, as described below.

The Consolidated CSET: LOTE Examinations Structure

The majority of the CSET: LOTE examinations have five subtests:

- I. General linguistics and linguistics of the target language
- II. Literary and cultural texts and traditions; Cultural analysis and comparison
- III. Language (Listening, speaking, reading, writing)
- IV. Bilingual methodology
- V. Culture (including experiences and interactions of the target group within the U.S.)

Within the new CSET: LOTE examinations structure, there will still be a three subtest structure for candidates for the bilingual authorization (CSET: LOTE Subtests III, IV and V). There will

also still be a three subtest subject matter examination structure for candidates for the foreign language authorization (CSET: LOTE Subtests I, II, and III).

The content specifications covered in the current BCLAD examinations will be maintained within the proposed CSET: LOTE examination structure, as follows:

Table 1

Current BCLAD Subtest	Corresponding CSET LOTE Subtest
Test 4: Methodology	Test IV: Bilingual Methodology
Test 5: Culture	Test V: Culture
Test 6: Language (Listening, speaking, reading, writing)	Test III: Language (Listening, speaking, reading, writing)

The current CTEL examination by which a candidate may earn a CLAD authorization is not affected by the new consolidated examinations structure.

The consolidated CSET: LOTE Test IV: Bilingual Methodology and Test V: Culture are currently undergoing a validity study in order to ensure that the content addressed by these two subtests remains current. Examples of content related to Bilingual Methodology are: literacy development; literary analysis; the range of bilingual education models, including but not limited to dual language and immersion instruction models; transference; and instructional use of language. Examples of content related to Culture are: interactions and experiences of the target group in the U.S.; generational issues; intercultural and intracultural issues; and culture within the home country/countries of the language group. It is anticipated that the updated versions of both of these subtests will be available beginning with the November, 2007 administration of the CSET: LOTE examinations.

Transition from BCLAD to the Consolidated CSET: LOTE Examination Structure

The current set of BCLAD examinations will cease to exist separately after the June 2007 BCLAD administration, and only the consolidated set of CSET Languages examinations will continue to be administered. The current CTEL examinations are not affected by any of the consolidation activities.

Candidates who have previously passed one or more sections of the BCLAD examinations will still be able to use those scores within the applicable period of score validity to meet requirements for the bilingual authorization. The period of score validity for BCLAD is seven years; the period of score validity for CSET is five years. After the final BCLAD administration in June 2007, candidates who have not passed one or more sections of the BCLAD examination will subsequently take the corresponding CSET: LOTE subtest as indicated in Table 1 above.

Candidates may combine scores from both the BCLAD examination and the CSET: LOTE examination as necessary to pass the three required bilingual subtests (Bilingual methodology, Culture, and Language) in order to earn a bilingual authorization. For example, a candidate for a bilingual authorization who passed BCLAD subtest 5, Culture, during the final BCLAD examination administration in June 2007 but has not passed any of the other BCLAD subtests will need to pass the CSET: LOTE subtests III (Language) and IV (Bilingual Methodology) in order to earn a bilingual authorization.

Consolidated CSET: LOTE Test Administration Dates

The consolidated CSET: LOTE examinations (including all five subtests) will be offered four times per year for French and Spanish, and two times per year for all other languages. The French and Spanish examinations will be offered in September, January, March, and May; all other languages will be offered in November and May. This represents an increase of two administrations per year for the Spanish bilingual set of examinations over the current BCLAD test administration schedule.

Streamlined Language-Related Credentialing Structure

The consolidation of the BCLAD examinations with the CSET: LOTE examinations will provide additional pathways to earn a bilingual authorization and/or a foreign language authorization, as described below. Bilingual authorizations as well as Single Subject Foreign Language authorizations will be available for all languages covered by the CSET: LOTE examinations, beginning with the November 2007 CSET: LOTE examination administration.

The structure outlined in Tables 2 and 3 below applies if a candidate chooses the examination route rather than the program route to meet applicable certification requirements. *NOTE:* Additional program and/or examination requirements also apply. See also notes referenced below.

Table 2

Candidates for an *Initial Language-Related Credential*-Streamlined Structure (Examinations Route Only)

Initial Credential Desired	Required CSET: LOTE Subtests
Bilingual authorization (BCLAD)*	III, IV, and V
Foreign Language authorization (LOTE)	I, II, and III
Both Bilingual and Foreign Language*	I, II, III, IV, and V

**All candidates for a bilingual authorization must also have a prior authorization to teach English learners*

Table 3

Candidates with an *Existing Credential*-Streamlined Structure (Examinations Route Only)

Additional Credential Desired	Required CSET: LOTE Subtests
Have a bilingual authorization, want to get a Foreign Language authorization**	I and II
Have a Foreign Language (LOTE) authorization, want to get a bilingual authorization*	IV and V

**Foreign Language credentialed teachers must also have an authorization to teach English learners in order to qualify for a bilingual authorization*

***Teachers with a bilingual authorization and a multiple subject credential will also need to take a 3-unit single subject pedagogy course*

In all cases, the bilingual authorization would still be dependent on the candidate's basic credential authorization.

For Further Information on the CSET: LOTE Examinations

Information on the CSET: LOTE examinations, including test specifications and registration information, can be found at the following website: www.cset.nesinc.com.

For Further Information on Bilingual and/or Foreign Language authorizations

For further questions regarding the consolidation of the BCLAD and foreign language examinations, contact the Commission's Information Services Unit at 1-888-921-2682, Monday through Friday between 1:00 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. or by email to credentials@ctc.ca.gov.