

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## COMMISSION FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND LICENSING

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TO: Chief Administrative Officers, Academic Deans and  
Department Chairmen of Teacher Preparation Institutions

FROM: Peter L. Lopresti, Executive Secretary *PL*

SUBJECT: Single Subject Waiver Policy

The single subject waiver policy has been in an interim state for over a year. My letter to you of a year ago (1-10-74) indicated that modifications of the policy might be forthcoming as a result of further clarification of certain sections of the Ryan Act (AB 122). The basic question to be resolved has been: is the single subject waiver policy consistent with the requirements of sections 13157 and 13157.1 of the Education Code? Following a series of interim waiver policies the Commission, in July of 1974, adopted a two-part single subject waiver policy and, at approximately the same time, requested an opinion of the Attorney General's office regarding the above question.

The first part of the two-part policy was written to serve as an interim policy and to expire on June 30, 1975. The second part, pending a favorable opinion by the Attorney General's office, was to become effective July 1, 1975. You received a copy of this two-part policy in the official minutes of the July, 1974 Commission meeting and another copy attached to a letter from me dated October 21, 1974.

In response to the Commission's request a reply was received in December, 1974, from the office of the Attorney General regarding the Waiver Policy. A summary of the conclusions of that opinion follows:

"The Commission's waiver policy scheduled to commence on July 1, 1975, is consistent with the requirements of Sections 13157 and 13157.1 of the Education Code."

"The responsible head of the educational institution must certify that the procedures listed in the Commission's waiver policy have been followed in selecting degrees and developing their programs, and shall explain to the Commission what academic standards were borne in mind, upon that campus, during the process of selecting such degrees. If the institution provides a thorough and comprehensive explanation

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of the academic standards and criteria used in certifying the degree program, and the Commission determines from those facts that the subject matter degree is substantially the same as one of the subject matter categories covered by the examinations, the Commission has complied with the requirements of Sections 13157 and 13157.1....."

"The Commission need not independently investigate each institution and each degree program offered under the waiver provisions of the Education Code. As long as sufficient facts are presented to it by the institution, the Commission may independently evaluate the degree under the guidelines of section 13157.1. Any questions of fact arising from the institution's presentation, as well as any factual matters requiring confirmation, may be investigated by the Commission's staff, with the results submitted to the Commission. It is the exercise of judgment or discretion based upon the facts presented, and not the initial obtaining of those facts, which must remain with the Commission under section 13157.1."

I regret that it has taken so long to finalize this policy. However, during the past year the Commission has, under the auspices of interim policies, approved single subject waiver requests from 63 institutions for 1500 degree programs. While the waiver status granted to institutions will expire on June 30, 1975, the appropriate examination will be waived for those teacher candidates who were enrolled in a degree program approved under the interim policy, upon completion of that degree program (see section IV A of the two-part policy attached).

I am enclosing a copy of the reply from the office of the Attorney General and a copy of the two-part single subject waiver policy for your information. As you review these two documents I would very much appreciate any suggestions you have regarding procedures to implement the waiver policy, especially Section III A-D. I would encourage you to discuss any questions you have regarding the revised waiver policy with the Commission consultant assigned to your college and to relay to the consultant any suggestions that you or your colleagues have regarding the procedures to implement this policy.

During the next month the staff will, in consultation with the Examinations Committee and with suggestions from you and others in the field, develop procedures to implement the waiver policy. We anticipate that the suggested procedures will be discussed at the March meeting of the Examinations Committee and, with revisions and field support, be approved at the April meeting of the Commission. This schedule will allow those institutions who wish to submit waiver requests under the new policy to do so by approximately May 1, 1975.