

## COMMISSION FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND LICENSING

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77-7802

TO: Deans or Directors of Education, Teacher Preparation Institutions

FROM: Peter L. LoPresti, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Interpretation of Education Code Section 44253, Related to the One-Year Internship or Preliminary Credential

On June 17, 1977 the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing adopted the following policy on the one-year Internship or Preliminary Credential:

That the Commission issue, up to June 30, 1978, an Internship or Preliminary Credential, not to exceed one year, to those candidates who have been let to believe that a one-year Preliminary Credential could and would be issued to those individuals who failed to pass the NTE or to those individuals entering an internship program. Verification of this interpretation by the institution to the candidate to be in the form of written confirmation to the Commission from the Dean of Education or other faculty officer designated to verify completion of the program.

A number of institutions have interpreted the below-cited Code Section 44253 to permit recommendation of their students for a one-year Preliminary Credential. This section has been interpreted as applicable only to out-of-state candidates who need some time to take the NTE Commons, one of the NTE area examinations, the reading examination, or the U.S. Constitution. This interpretation has been made on the basis that every approved program was required to stipulate that the institution would verify subject matter "competence" by one of the two statutory means: (1) Completion of a waiver program; or (2) successful passage of the Commission-approved examination.

Internship Or Preliminary Credential

44253. The Commission may issue an Internship or a Preliminary Credential to an applicant, pending completion of any examination requirement by the applicant within the time limit, not to exceed one year, set by the Commission.

A number of institutions have interpreted this section as applicable to two categories of candidates: (1) Those who have failed to pass the examination and do not meet the criteria for an appeal; and (2) those who are entering a teaching internship program. This interpretation is clearly a misunderstanding of the intent to authorize for classroom teaching, including student teaching and internships, only those who have verified subject matter knowledge. After a careful review of past action and communication, both written and oral, Commission staff must accept a large part of the responsibility for the misunderstanding.

The issuance of any one-year Internship or Preliminary Credential will not continue after June 30, 1978. If you have any questions about the Commission action or of any individual candidates affected by this action, please contact your Commission consultant.