

COMMISSION FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND LICENSING

1020 O STREET
SACRAMENTO 95814

November 6, 1979

79-8021

TO: Credential Technicians for Institutions of Higher Education
County Offices and Selected School Districts

FROM: Peter L. LoPresti, Executive Secretary *Peter L. LoPresti*

SUBJECT: Clarification of Special Education Credentials and
Teaching Authorizations.

The Commission receives numerous calls from school districts, county offices and institutions of higher education requesting clarification as to what credential a person needs to hold in order to teach certain classes in the area of Special Education. These questions usually stem from the fact that in the area of Special Education we have experienced several dramatic changes in the last fifteen years in terms of types, authorizations and requirements for obtaining Special Education credentials. In addition, there are sometimes differences between master plan regulations and non-master plan regulations; differences between Federal and State statutes; and the continuing shortage of certain special education personnel.

The attached document was developed by the Commission staff, State Department of Education personnel, and Lamar Mayer, past Chairman of the Advisory Commission on Special Education. It is an attempt to recount all the credentials issued over the past fifteen years in the area of Special Education and to specify the areas of service these past and current credentials authorize the holder to perform.

We would appreciate your review of this document in terms of its completeness and usefulness in assisting your district to assign appropriately credentialed personnel to special education classes.

After we have received your input, we intend to insert this document in the California Administrative Code, Title 5 Regulations so it can become common knowledge for all concerned.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Paul Finkbeiner (916) 322-5988.

Attachment

CLARIFICATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
CREDENTIALS AND TEACHING AUTHORIZATIONS

Statement of Intent

To develop Title 5 Regulations that clarify credential authorizations for those who teach in classrooms organized for individuals with exceptional needs.

General Statement of Requirements

Nothing in these regulations is meant to preclude instruction of individuals with exceptional needs by teachers in regular classes if the student is appropriately served and his/her needs met by the regular curriculum.

Special education and or a specialist credential are required for special classes, resource specialist programs and other special services which provide needs on a full- or part-time basis.

Please complete and mail

TO: Mr. Sanford L. Huddy, Manager of Licensing
Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing

FROM:

SUBJECT: Response to Clarification of Special Education Credentials
and Teaching Authorizations.

1. The statements, as written, appear correct and complete _____.

2. I suggest the following additions or corrections:

Who Can Teach Classes for the Learning Handicapped?

A. In a Master Plan program special class where the primary disability of the pupils of the class is learning handicaps the following credentials authorize service:

- Special Secondary for Teaching the Mentally Retarded*
- Specialist in Special Education - authorization Learning Handicapped
- Exceptional Child Credential - Mental Retardation*
- Standard Teaching Credential - Mental Retardation*
- Restricted Educable Mental Retardation*

*Teachers assigned to teach classes enrolling broader disability grouping than their special education credentials encompass shall within five (5) years (CAC Title 5 Regulations - Section 3113):

- (1) Complete requirements for the appropriate Specialist in Special Education credential (Specialist in Special Education - Learning Handicapped)

AND

- (2) Possess the necessary competencies to teach individuals assigned to that class, as verified annually by the superintendent of the Local Education Agency and approved by the local Board of Education,

OR

- (3) Possess the necessary competencies which are appropriate for the specific teaching assignment. Knowledge and skills may be developed and offered through the Responsible Local Agency and a university or college. The competencies shall be verified by the Superintendent of the Local Education Agency, and approved by the local Board of Education. The required competencies and staff development program shall be identified in the local comprehensive plan for special education.

B. For Non-Master Plan programs the following credentials apply:

Special Classes and Learning Disabilities Groups for Educationally Handicapped (not including SED or Autistic)

- Specialist in Special Education - Learning Handicapped Credential

Special Classes for the Educable Mentally Retarded

- Special Secondary for Teaching the Mentally Retarded
- Exceptional Child Credential - Mental Retardation
- Standard Teaching Credential - Mental Retardation
- Restricted Educable Mental Retardation
- Specialist in Special Education - Learning Handicapped

Who Can Teach Classes for the Severely Handicapped?

- A. In Master Plan program special classes for the Severely Handicapped where the primary disability of the class is moderate mental retardation (TMR) the following credentials authorize service:

- Special Secondary for Teaching the Mentally Retarded
- Specialist in Special Education - Severely Handicapped
- Exceptional Child Credential - authorization Mental Retardation*
- Standard Teaching Credential - Mental Retardation*
- Restricted Moderate Mental Retardation (TMR)*

*Teachers assigned to teach classes enrolling broader disability grouping than their special education credentials encompass shall within five (5) years:

- (1) Complete requirements for the appropriate Specialist in Special Education credential (Specialist in Special Education - Severely Handicapped)
- AND
- (2) Possess the necessary competencies to teach individuals assigned to that class, as verified annually by the superintendent of the Local Education Agency and approved by the local Board of Education,
- OR
- (3) Possess the necessary competencies which are appropriate for the specific teaching assignment. Knowledge and skills may be developed and offered through the Responsible Local Agency and a university or college. The competencies shall be verified by the Superintendent of the Local Education Agency, and approved by the local Board of Education. The required competencies and staff development program shall be identified in the local comprehensive plan for special education.

- B. In Master Plan or Non-Master Plan program special classes for Severely Handicapped where the primary disability of the class is severe emotional disturbance and/or autism, the following credential authorizes service:

- Specialist in Special Education - Severely Handicapped

Teachers currently assigned to these classes who hold other Special Education credentials must meet the requirements of items (1) and (2) or item (3) above.

- C. In Master Plan program special classes for the Severely Handicapped where the primary disability is severe to profound Mental Retardation with associated disabilities (DCH) the following credentials authorize service:

- Special Secondary for Teaching the Mentally Retarded
- Specialist in Special Education - Severely Handicapped
- Standard Teaching Credential - Mental Retardation
- Restricted Trainable Mental Retardation (TMR)
- Restricted Orthopedically Handicapped

Who Can Teach Special Classes for the Communicatively Handicapped?

- A. The following information applies to both Master Plan and Non-Master Plan programs.

If the primary disability demonstrated by the pupils of the class is a hearing handicap (deaf or severely hard-of-hearing) the following credentials authorize service:

- Special Secondary Credential for Teaching the Deaf
- Special Secondary Credential for Teaching Lip Reading to the Hard-of-Hearing Child
- Exceptional Child Credential - authorization Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing
- Standard Teaching Credential - Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing
- Restricted Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Specialist in Special Education - Communicatively Handicapped

If the primary disability of the pupils of the class is a combined problem of vision and hearing (deaf-blind), the following credentials authorize service:

- Restricted Credential - authorization Deaf-Blind
- Specialist in Special Education - Communicatively Handicapped

If the primary disability of the pupils of the class is severe disorders of language (aphasia) the following credentials authorize service:

- Special Secondary Credential in Correction of Speech Defects
- Exceptional Child Credential - authorization Speech and Hearing
- Standard Speech and Hearing
- Restricted Speech and Hearing
- Specialist in Special Education - Communicatively Handicapped
- Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential for Language, Speech and Hearing Services with the added Special Class Authorization

Who Can Teach Classes for the Physically Handicapped?

- A. In both Master Plan and Non-Master Plan programs for the Orthopedically Handicapped and Other Health Impaired the following credentials authorize service:
- Exceptional Child Credential - authorization Orthopedically Handicapped
 - Standard Teaching Credential - Orthopedically Handicapped
 - Restricted Orthopedically Handicapped
 - Specialist in Special Education - Physically Handicapped
- B. In both Master Plan and Non-Master Plan programs for the Blind and Partially Seeing the following credentials authorize service:
- Special Secondary Credential for Teaching the Partially-Sighted Child
 - Special Secondary Credential for Teaching the Blind
 - Exceptional Child Credential - authorization Visually Handicapped
 - Standard Teaching Credential - Visually Handicapped
 - Restricted Visually Handicapped
 - Specialist in Special Education - Physically Handicapped issued prior to January 1, 1981
 - Specialist in Special Education- Blind and Partially-Seeing issued after September 1, 1979

The following exceptions shall apply:

- (1) Teachers with a child center permit who have been continuously employed may continue to teach in the classes for the severely handicapped, under the general supervision of a head teacher.
 - (2) New teachers with a child center permit may be employed on an annual basis for a period of time not to exceed five years. During that time period, they shall obtain a Specialist in Special Education credential; and shall complete a minimum of six semester units per year toward that objective in order to renew eligibility.
- C. For Non-Master Plan programs the following credentials apply:

Special classes for the Trainable Mentally Retarded

- Special Secondary for Teaching the Mentally Retarded
- Exceptional Child Credential - Mental Retardation
- Standard Teaching Credential - Mental Retardation
- Restricted Trainable Mental Retardation (TMR)
- Specialist in Special Education - Severely Handicapped

Development Centers for the Handicapped (DCH)

- o A Supervising head teacher or a teacher other than a permit teacher shall hold a valid credential, in one or more of the following areas:
 - (1) Standard teaching credential with a specialization in elementary, secondary, or junior college teaching issued on the basis of substitution of specialized preparation to serve as a teacher of exceptional children in lieu of a minor.
 - (2) Any of the following "prior credentials":
 - (a) Credential to Teach Exceptional Children (issued under former sections 391-394, inclusive, after September 15, 1957)
 - (b) Special Secondary Credential for Teaching the Blind
 - (c) Special Secondary Credential for Teaching the Deaf
 - (d) Special Secondary Credential for Teaching Lip Reading to the Hard-of-Hearing Child
 - (e) Special Secondary Credential for Teaching the Partially-Sighted Child
 - (f) Special Secondary Credential in Correction of Speech Defects
 - (3) A restricted credential designating service within one of the following areas of specialization:
 - (a) Teacher of deaf and severely hard-of-hearing children
 - (b) Teacher of educable mentally retarded children
 - (c) Teacher of trainable mentally retarded minors
 - (d) Teacher of orthopedically handicapped children, including the cerebral palsied
 - (e) Teacher of visually handicapped children
 - (f) Speech and hearing therapist
 - (4) A specialist instruction credential in one of the following areas:
 - (a) Communicatively Handicapped Credential

(b) Physically Handicapped Credential

(c) Learning Handicapped Credential

(d) Severely Handicapped Credential

- The supervising head teacher is authorized to supervise and to serve in the program of instruction, guidance, and care of individuals in a development center, subject to section 3790.
- An instructional permit teacher shall meet the requirements specified in CAC Title 5 Regulations Sections 3793 or 3794 and other requirements as established by the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing.