

COMMISSION FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND LICENSING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



August 26, 1982

TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the
Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing

FROM: John F. Brown, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Information About Basic Skills Tests

The enclosed memorandum has been distributed by Educational Testing Service as part of their effort to publicize the Basic Skills Test requirement and registration procedures.

Because of your interest in Commission activities, I am sending the memorandum to you in the event that you do not receive it through one of the ETS mailings.

COMMISSION FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND LICENSING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



August 27, 1982

TO: Prospective Credential Applicants, Certificated People Seeking
New Employment, and Teacher Aides

FROM: *John F. Brown*
John F. Brown, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Basic Skills Proficiency Test for Teachers

On May 18, 1982, California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. signed Assembly Bill 283 into law which requires the development and use of a Basic Skills Proficiency Test for teachers and personnel employed in school districts. The bill stipulates that after February 1, 1983, no credential, permit, or certificate can be initially issued, and no person can be hired to teach in the public schools unless the applicant/candidate has taken and passed a Basic Skills Proficiency Test. The bill also specifies that any individual who passes the state assessment instrument to measure proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills shall be considered proficient in these skills, and shall not be required to be reassessed by this instrument to meet the specifications of this law.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction with assistance from the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing and an advisory board - made up of classroom teachers (majority), school administrators, parents, postsecondary institutions, and representatives of local school boards - is developing an examination entitled the California Basic Educational Skills Test for Teachers (CBEST). CBEST will be administered by Educational Testing Service, beginning December 18, 1982.

Below is a detailed description of requirements found in AB 283:

Which applicants for a credential are required to take the California Basic Educational Skills Test for Teachers (CBEST)?

After February 1, 1983, anyone applying to the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing for the initial issuance of any credential, permit, or certificate, supplementary authorization, or the renewal of an emergency credential are required to have taken and passed the CBEST.

Which applicants for a credential are exempt from taking the CBEST?

- Anyone who receives a credential solely for the purpose of teaching adults in an apprenticeship program
- Anyone seeking an adult education designated subjects credential for other than an academic subject

Which applicants for a credential have one year in which to take and pass the CBEST?

Applicants may be given a preliminary, or internship credential for a period not to exceed one year, on the condition that he or she will take and pass the CBEST at the next administration if they are seeking a vocational designated subjects credential.

Which applicants seeking employment in a school district must take and pass the CBEST?

The legislation requiring the use of the CBEST, (AB 283), also specifies requirements that school district governing boards must meet in the employment of professional staff. Employment decisions are the prerogative of the employing agencies, who must interpret the relevant sections of the law. These sections are included here, with paraphrasing indicated by parentheses:

Section 44830.b. Commencing on February 1, 1983, no school district governing board shall initially hire on a permanent, temporary, or substitute basis a certificated person seeking employment in the capacity designated in his or her credential unless that person has demonstrated basic skills proficiency (by passing CBEST, unless exempted).

Section 44830.c. A certificated person shall not be required to take (CBEST) if he or she has been employed in a position requiring certification in another school district within 39 months prior to employment with the district.

Sections 44830.d. and 44830.f. ...A person employed solely for the purpose of teaching adults in an apprenticeship program ... (or) the holder of an adult education subject credential for other than academic subjects who is employed in an instructional setting for 20 hours or less per week (shall not be required to take CBEST).

Another bill, AB 3253, if passed, will allow out-of-state credentialed applicants who have been offered employment in a California school district, to be granted a nonrenewable emergency credential, valid for up to one year, pending fulfillment of the basic skills proficiency requirement.

What about aides?

Aides seeking new employment are not required to take CBEST. They are, however, required to pass a basic skills test at a level of proficiency equal to or higher than that required of high school seniors in the employing district or in the high school district covering a majority of an elementary district. The staff in a school district will have information on how this skill requirement is to be met.

How much will CBEST cost the examinee?

The law specifies the cost of taking CBEST for the next three years. The required fee covers the cost of developing the examination. Those fees are:

1982-83	\$30
1983-84	\$35
subsequent years	\$40

Administration Dates

CBEST will be administered in California on the following dates:

December 18, 1982	- morning
February 26, 1983	- morning
May 7, 1983	- afternoon
July 16, 1983	- morning

Administration Sites

CBEST will be administered primarily at universities and colleges in locations throughout California. The locations of the test sites and specific times of administration appear in the CBEST Information Bulletin.