

## COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

LICENSING BRANCH

P.O. Box 2670

Sacramento, California 95812

16/445-0184



8 March 1985

84-8513

TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities  
of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing

FROM: John F. Brown, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Issuance of Life Credentials to Applicants Who Meet the  
Requirements Prior to September 1, 1985

As you all know, Chapter 498 of the Statutes of 1983 (Senate Bill 813) made a significant change in the issuance of life credentials. The text of the revised section of the Education Code reads as follows:

44255. No life credential shall be issued until all requirements for the credential have been met and the candidate has taught for two years in California public schools or California private schools offering instruction which exempts children from the requirements of attendance upon a public full-time day school as set forth in Section 48222. This section shall remain in effect only until September 1, 1985, and as of that date is repealed.

This coded correspondence is designed to clarify who will be able to qualify for a life credential before the deadline and to explain two changes in the type of experience appropriate for the life credential.

The California Administrative Code, Title 5 regulations concerning the issuance of life credentials read as follows:

80033. Life Credentials.

Teaching and services credentials may be issued for life on receipt of a complete application including verification of two years of full-time teaching or other certificated service rendered on the basis of the clear credential under consideration. Teaching or other certificated service shall be acceptable for this requirement when the employment was in a position generally requiring the type of credential under consideration. Full-time service on the basis of a teaching or services credential which is dependent upon a teaching credential shall be acceptable for either credential. Teaching experience shall be acceptable only for meeting this requirement for teaching credentials.

Teaching or service experience in a California private school will be accepted on the same basis as public school experience if such private school offered and the applicant provided instruction which exempted students from the requirements of attendance upon a public full-time day school pursuant to Section 48222.

In interpreting these regulations, we have defined seven populations of applicants for life credentials. The first five are familiar to you. However, after discussing the populations with a number of you at workshops and on the telephone, reviewing the Title 5 regulations and consulting with the Commission at its January meeting, we have made two changes. These changes in no way reflect a desire on our part to "open the door" to wide-scale issuance of life credentials prior to the September 1 deadline. You will remember that the impetus to eliminate life credentials and institute professional growth requirements came from the Commission. Rather, we make these changes in the interest of fairness to those who hold clear credentials and have served on them.

POPULATIONS CONVERTING TO LIFE CREDENTIALS BEFORE 9-1-85

CHANGE FROM PAST PRACTICE

1. The holder of a clear teaching credential who verifies two years of full-time teaching while holding the clear credential may obtain that credential for life.	None
2. The holder of a clear service credential in Health Services, Clinical Rehabilitative Services, or Pupil Personnel Services who verifies two years of appropriate full-time service while holding the clear credential may obtain that credential for life.	None
3. The holder of a clear prerequisite* teaching credential and a clear dependent** teaching credential who verifies two years of full-time teaching on the dependent credential while holding both credentials as clear documents may obtain both credentials for life.	None
4. The holder of a clear prerequisite credential and a clear Administrative Services credential who verifies two years of full-time service as an administrator while holding both credentials as clear documents may obtain both credentials for life.	None
5. The holder of a clear prerequisite credential and a clear Library Services credential who verifies two years of full-time service as a librarian while holding both credentials as clear documents may obtain both credentials for life.	None
6. The holder of a clear prerequisite teaching credential and a dependent teaching credential that is NOT clear (emergency or preliminary) who verifies two years of full-time teaching on the dependent credential may obtain the prerequisite credential for life.	<p style="text-align: center;">Change</p> <p>Rationale: the applicant could not have served in the position without the prerequisite credential. Since that credential was clear and meets the Title 5 requirements, it should be converted to life.</p>

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\* A prerequisite credential is one the applicant must hold in order to qualify for a succeeding type of credential.

\*\* A dependent credential is one for which possession of a prerequisite credential is a requirement.

7. The holder of a preliminary prerequisite teaching credential and a clear dependent teaching credential who verifies two years of full-time teaching on the clear dependent credential may obtain the dependent credential for life. However, the life dependent credential will carry the following statement: "This document is issued for the life of the holder and shall remain valid as long as the prerequisite credential is also valid."

Change  
 Rationale: The applicant held a document labeled "clear" which might have led him or her to believe that it would meet the requirements of Title 5 for life credentials.

EXAMPLES OF SOME COMBINATIONS OF PREREQUISITE AND DEPENDENT CREDENTIALS

<u>PREREQUISITE HELD</u>	<u>2 YRS EXPERIENCE ON DEPENDENT</u>	<u>RECEIVES LIFE</u>
Clear Multiple Subject	Clear Learning Handicapped	Both Creds
Clear Pupil Personnel	Clear Administrative Services	Both Creds
Clear Single Subject	Clear Librarianship	Both Creds
Clear Multiple Subject	Emergency Limited Assignment	Prereq only
Clear Multiple Subject and Clear LH	Preliminary Resource Specialist	Both Prereq Creds
Preliminary Multiple Subject	Clear Learning Handicapped	Dependent only -- with restriction noted in #7

HOW TO APPLY UNDER POPULATIONS 6 OR 7 ABOVE

In the past few years we have denied a number of people life documents because, even though their prerequisite credentials were clear they were serving on preliminary or emergency dependent credentials or because they had preliminary prerequisite credentials even though they were serving on clear dependent credentials. We will NOT correct those documents. The clear credentials we issued, in place of the life credentials requested, were issued correctly under the policy in place at that time. Any credential holder who now qualifies for a life credential because of the changes explained in 6 and 7 above, must submit a new application form and fee before September 1, 1985, for that life credential. If the applicant is holding an application form that shows an unused fee less than a year old, that application form and fee may be resubmitted for the life credential.

A FEW OTHER NOTES ABOUT APPLYING FOR LIFE CREDENTIALS

• The Definition of Full-Time Experience:

To be considered full time, the experience verified must be for a minimum of four hours per day, five days per week, for at least 75% of a school year. It is not possible to earn more than one year of experience in a year. We will accept service for a minimum of a semester to meet part of this requirement, but neither substitute nor summer school service applies. When submitting verifications, please be sure that they say "full time" or give the hours per day and days per week for the period being considered. A credential holder who serves part-time in two districts at the same time may add the experience together to equal full time.

● The Verification of Experience:

The verification of experience submitted with the application for a life credential may appear on section 6 of the application form, on Commission form CL-661 (see Handbook page VI-A-5), or on letterhead paper. It may be signed by the county or district superintendent, principal, vice-principal, school director, supervising program specialist, certification analyst or personnel clerk.

● The Authorization of the Credential:

The experience for a life credential may be earned in an area or subject authorized directly by the document, authorized elsewhere in statutes (such as the 9/18 rule in Ed. Code Section 44263), or for which the employer required the credential under consideration (such as a special education administrator being required to hold a Special Education credential in addition to the Administrative Services credential). However, if the document does NOT directly authorize the service, verified, the employer should explain on what basis the applicant served and why the experience should be used to convert the credential under consideration to a life document.

● Adding Authorizations to Life Credentials:

The holder of a life credential who applies to add an authorization to that credential must apply before 9-1-85 to have the new authorization listed on the life document. If he or she applies after that date, a separate clear document will be issued to cover the new authorization. Examples of this include adding a supplementary subject to a life Multiple Subject credential or adding the School Psychology authorization to a life Basic Pupil Personnel Services credential.

If you have any questions about life credentials, please contact our Information Services Office at (916) 445-7254 between 12:30 and 4:30 daily.