

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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91-9115

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

FROM: 
Philip A. Fitch, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Preliminary Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence

Following a review of information collected during the monitoring of school districts throughout the state and correspondence received at the Commission office, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing is concerned that some individuals who have been employed as Resource Specialists do not have the appropriate professional requirements needed to adequately provide instruction and service to the handicapped students assigned to them.

Federal regulations (34 CFR Ch. 111, §300.153) state that "appropriate professional requirements in the State means entry level requirements that are based on the highest requirements in the State applicable to the profession or discipline in which a person is providing special education or related services;..." It goes on to say that "to the extent that a State's standards for a profession or discipline, including standards for temporary or emergency certification, are not based on the highest requirements in the State applicable to a specific profession or discipline, the State plan must include the steps the State is taking and the procedures for notifying public agencies and personnel of those steps and the timelines it has established for the retraining or hiring of personnel to meet appropriate professional requirements in the State...."

In the case of the Resource Specialist, the highest requirements are those for the *clear* Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence. The Commission is collecting information to determine if when Resource Specialists are employed for the coming school year that each employer has made an effort to recruit individuals who hold the clear Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence. A copy of the information leaflet

which lists the requirements for the Certificate and the colleges, universities, and local assessor agencies with Commission-approved programs is attached (form CL-625).

If you, as an employer, have searched for a person who holds a clear Certificate and have been unable to hire one, your next best option is to find someone who holds or is eligible for the *preliminary* Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence. The requirements for the preliminary Certificate are also listed on the attached leaflet. The holder of the preliminary Certificate has three years during which to complete the requirements for the clear Certificate. Service on the preliminary Certificate is restricted to the district or agency that provides the applicant's statement of employment.

Effective immediately, instead of sending the Commission an individually written letter that you will employ the applicant as a Resource Specialist, please complete the information on the enclosed "Preliminary Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence Employment Statement" (form CL-625a) and submit that form with each application for the preliminary Certificate. The form provides each employer with the opportunity to describe the attempts made to recruit a person who has met the appropriate professional requirements to serve in the position and assures the Commission that each individual receiving the preliminary Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence will engage in a course of study to the clear Resource Specialist Certificate.

RESOURCE SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE

The REQUIREMENTS for the Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence are as follows: (Refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Sections 80070.1 - 80070.8 for the complete text of the regulations.)

The CLEAR Certificate on Direct Application:

- (1) possession of a valid special education credential* other than an emergency credential, and
- (2) verification of the completion of two years of full-time service prior to September 1, 1981, providing the instruction and services specified in Title 5, Section 80070.1(a) listed on the reverse of this form OR verification of the completion of two years of full-time service prior to June 30, 1983, providing the instruction and services specified in Title 5, Section 80070.2(b) listed on the reverse of this form. Experience shall be verified on letterhead stationery or on forms provided by the Commission office (CL-645a or CL-645b) and shall be signed by the appropriate administrative official of the school district, special education service region, or county office of education where the service was rendered. To be applicable, service performed after September 1, 1981 must be covered by a preliminary Resource Specialist Certificate or a waiver from the Department of Education. Please submit a copy of the certificate or waiver with the application.

The PRELIMINARY Certificate through an Employing Agency:

- (1) possession of a valid Special Education Credential* other than an emergency credential, and
- (2) verification of three or more years of teaching experience. Experience shall be verified by the appropriate administrative official of the district, special education services region, or county office at which the experience took place, and
- (3) a written statement verifying that the candidate, if granted the Preliminary Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence, will be employed as a resource specialist. The written statement of employment must include a statement indicating that the candidate will engage in a course of study for the clear certificate.

The CLEAR Certificate on Recommendation of an IHE:

- (1) possession of a valid Special Education Credential* other than an emergency credential, and
- (2) verification of three or more years of teaching experience, including both regular and special education teaching. Experience shall be verified by the appropriate administrative official of the district, special education services region, or county office in which the experience took place, and
- (3) completion of a Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence program at a California college or university with a Commission-approved program, and
- (4) the recommendation of the college or university where the approved program was completed.

The CLEAR Certificate on Recommendation of a Commission-approved School District, County Office, or Special Education Service Region:

- (1) possession of a valid Special Education Credential* other than an emergency credential, and
- (2) verification of three or more years of teaching experience, including both regular and special education, and
- (3) verification by the director of the school district, county office, or special education service region with a comprehensive "local plan" and approved by the Commission to assess and recommend for the certificate, that the applicant has successfully demonstrated all the necessary competencies.

*Effective 1-1-82, the Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential in Language, Speech and Hearing, including the Special Class Authorization, also serves as an acceptable prerequisite credential for the Resource Specialist Certificate. In most cases, the holder of this credential will not have had regular classroom experience and will need to make special arrangements to fulfill the requirement before applying for the clear certificate.

(Over)

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 80070.1(a)

- (1) Providing instruction and services for pupils whose needs were identified in a written individualized education program developed by a school appraisal team or an educational assessment service and who were assigned to regular classroom teachers for a majority of a school day.
- (2) Providing information and assistance to individuals with exceptional needs and their parents.
- (3) Providing consultation, resource information, and material regarding individuals with exceptional needs to their parents and to regular staff members.
- (4) Coordinating the special education services provided each individual with exceptional needs.
- (5) Assessing pupil progress on a regular basis and revising individualized education programs as appropriate, and referring pupils who did not indicate appropriate progress to the educational assessment services.

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 80070.2(b):

- (1) Provide instruction and services for pupils whose needs have been identified in an individualized education program developed by the individualized education program team and who are assigned to regular classroom teachers for a majority of a school day.
- (2) Provide information and assistance to individuals with exceptional needs and to their parents.
- (3) Provide consultation, resource information, and material regarding individuals with exceptional needs to their parents and to regular staff members.
- (4) Coordinate special education services with the regular school programs for each individual with exceptional needs enrolled in the resource specialist program.
- (5) Monitor pupil progress on a regular basis, participate in the review and revision of individualized education programs, as appropriate, and refer pupils who do not demonstrate appropriate progress to the individualized education program team.
- (6) Emphasize, at the secondary school level, academic achievement, career and vocational development, and preparation for adult life.

AUTHORIZATION:

The Resource Specialist Certificate authorizes the holder to provide all of the instructions and services listed in Title 5, Section 80070.2(b) above.

TERM:

A CLEAR Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence authorizes service only if a valid special education credential, other than an emergency credential is held concurrently.

The PRELIMINARY Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence authorizes service for up to three years if a valid special education credential other than an emergency credential is held concurrently. If the special education credential expires, it must be renewed in order to continue to serve on the Resource Specialist Certificate.

The Preliminary Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence is not renewable.

APPROVED RESOURCE SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION:

CSU, Bakersfield
CSU, Chico
CSU, Dominguez Hills
CSU, Fullerton
CSU, Hayward
CSU, Long Beach
CSU, Los Angeles
CSU, Northridge
CSPU, Pomona
CSU, Sacramento

CSU, San Bernardino
San Diego State U.
San Francisco St. U.
San Jose State U.
CPSU, San Luis Obispo
Sonoma State U

UC, Irvine
UC, Los Angeles
UC, Riverside (& Extension)

Azusa Pacific U.
California Lutheran C.
Chapman C.
Fresno Pacific C.
Loyola Marymount U.
Pepperdine U. (LA)
St. Mary's C.
Santa Clara U.
U. of La Verne
U. of the Pacific

COUNTY OFFICES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE REGION:

Fresno County Supt. of Schools
Marin County Supt. of Schools
Monterey County Special Ed. Local Planning Area
North Coast Consortium for Special Ed./North
Inland Special Ed. Region, Escondido & Carlsbad
Orange County Department of Ed.

San Joaquin County Office of Education
San Luis Obispo County Schools
Santa Barbara County Schools
Stanislaus County Special Ed. Local Planning Area
Tulare County Department of Education
Ventura County Special Ed. Service Area
Consortium

