

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

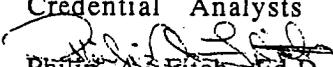
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DATE: December 18, 1991 92-9201

TO: Elementary and Unified School District Superintendents
County Superintendents of Schools
Credential Analysts

FROM:  Philip A. Fitch, Ed.D., Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Legislative Change in K-8 Teacher Assignment Law

Senate Bill 215 (Craven, Chapter 1064, Statutes of 1991) provides increased flexibility for teacher assignment in grades K-8. First, the new law allows teachers holding credentials authorizing instruction in a self-contained classroom, and assigned to teach core courses, to teach any of the subjects they are already teaching for an additional period or periods. This provision addresses the problem commonly referred to as the "hanging period", by allowing elementary teachers assigned to core courses to fill out their teaching schedule with one or more additional departmentalized courses. For example, the teacher of a seventh grade social science/English core may teach an additional period or periods of social science or English. These additional departmentalized courses can comprise up to one-half of the teacher's total teaching assignment.

Second, the new law enables the holders of a credential authorizing instruction in a self-contained classroom to teach any subjects in departmentalized classes in any of grades K-8, if the teacher consents to that assignment, and the local governing board verifies, in accordance with specified policies and procedures, that the teacher has adequate subject matter knowledge (Education Code Section 44258.3). Specifically, the law requires the governing board of any district which chooses to use Section 44258.3 in assigning teachers to:

1. Establish policies and procedures for the purpose of verifying the adequacy of subject matter knowledge on the part of consenting teachers;
2. Involve subject matter specialists in the subjects commonly taught in the district in the development of those policies and procedures;
3. Include in the policies and procedures all of the following:
 - a) One or more ways for teachers to attain subject matter competence other than completion of college or university

coursework, including, but not limited to successful prior teaching experience, self-directed study, completion of internships, study with a mentor teacher, curriculum institutes, work experience, or systematic programs of professional development.

- b) One or more ways to assess subject matter competence, including, but not limited to, observation by subject matter specialists, oral interviews, demonstration lessons, presentation of curricular portfolios, or written examinations.
- c) Specific criteria and standards for verifying that teachers have attained and/or demonstrated adequacy of subject matter knowledge, using any of the methods listed above.

Section 44258.3 stipulates that teaching assignments made according to this section shall be reviewed annually by the governing board of the school district, and that such assignments are valid only in that school district. The law also requires the principal of the school, or other appropriate administrator, to notify the exclusive representative of certificated personnel in the district when a teacher is assigned to teach classes pursuant to this section of law. Finally, the law requires that such teaching assignments be reported according to policies and procedures already established pursuant to current assignment law (Section 44258.9).

The law authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to develop and recommend model criteria, standards and procedures for voluntary use by local governing boards in assigning teachers under the new law. The Commission is convening a task force of practitioners to assist in developing and recommending model systems for the verification of teacher competence pursuant to SB 215. This work is expected to be completed by the end of March 1992.

Enclosed for your information is the complete text of Senate Bill 215. If you need further information, please contact Information Services at (916) 445-7254 between 12:30 pm and 4:30 pm weekday afternoons.

Attachment

Senate Bill No. 215

CHAPTER 1064

An act to amend Section 44258.1 of, and to add and repeal Section 44258.3 of, the Education Code, relating to teaching credentials.

[Approved by Governor October 14, 1991. Filed with
Secretary of State October 14, 1991.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 215, Craven. Teaching credentials: instruction in self-contained classrooms.

Existing law permits the holder of a credential authorizing instruction in a self-contained classroom to teach in grades 5 to 8, inclusive, in a middle school, provided that he or she teaches 2 or more subjects for 2 or more periods per day to the same group of pupils.

This bill would, additionally, allow that teacher to teach in any of grades 5 to 8, inclusive, any of the subjects he or she is already teaching to a separate group of pupils at the same grade level as those he or she already is teaching, for an additional period or periods, as specified.

This bill also would allow the governing board of a school district to assign a teacher who holds that credential to teach any subjects in departmentalized classes in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 8, inclusive, if the teacher consents to that assignment and the board verifies, in accordance with specified policies and procedures, that the teacher has adequate subject matter knowledge. The bill would require that those teaching assignments be reviewed annually, and that the exclusive representative of the certificated employees be notified of each such assignment. The bill would require school districts and county superintendents of schools to report those assignments pursuant to specified existing law.

The bill would authorize the commission to develop and recommend model criteria, standards, and procedures that school district governing boards may use in making those assignments to departmentalized classes. The bill would require the commission, to the extent that funds are provided from the Teacher Credentials Fund for that purpose, to study the implementation of those provisions, and to report the results to the Legislature on or before January 1, 1995.

The bill would repeal those provisions as of January 1, 1996.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 44258.1 of the Education Code is amended to read:

44258.1. The holder of a credential authorizing instruction in a self-contained classroom may teach in any of grades 5 to 8, inclusive, in a middle school, provided that he or she teaches two or more subjects for two or more periods per day to the same group of pupils, and, in addition, may teach any of the subjects he or she already is teaching to a separate group of pupils at the same grade level as those pupils he or she already is teaching for an additional period or periods, provided that the additional period or periods do not exceed one-half of the teacher's total assignment.

SEC. 2. Section 44258.3 is added to the Education Code, to read:

44258.3. (a) The governing board of a school district may assign the holder of a credential authorizing instruction in a self-contained classroom to teach any subjects in departmentalized classes in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 8, inclusive, provided that the governing board verifies that the teacher has adequate knowledge of each subject to be taught and the teacher consents to that assignment. The governing board shall establish policies and procedures for the purpose of verifying the adequacy of subject knowledge on the part of each of those teachers. The governing board shall involve subject matter specialists in the subjects commonly taught in the district in the development of the policies and procedures, and shall include in those policies and procedures all of the following:

(1) One or more ways for teachers to attain subject matter competence other than completion of college or university coursework, including, but not limited to, successful prior teaching experience, self-directed study, completion of internships, study with a mentor teacher, curriculum institutes, work experience, or systematic programs of professional development.

(2) One or more ways to assess subject matter competence, including, but not limited to, observation by subject matter specialists, oral interviews, demonstration lessons, presentation of curricular portfolios, or written examinations.

(3) Specific criteria and standards for verifying adequacy of subject matter knowledge using any of the methods in paragraph (1) or (2), or paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) Teaching assignments made pursuant to this section shall be reviewed annually by the governing board of the school district, and shall be valid only in that school district. The principal of the school, or other appropriate administrator, shall notify the exclusive representative of the certificated employees for that school district, as provided under Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 3540) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code, of each instance in which a teacher is assigned to teach classes pursuant to this section. Any school district policy or procedures adopted and teaching assignments made pursuant to this section shall be included in the report required by subdivisions (a) and (e) of Section 44258.9.

(c) The Commission on Teacher Credentialing may develop and

recommend model criteria, standards, and procedures that may be used by governing boards of school districts in assigning teachers under this section.

(d) To the extent that funds are provided from the Teacher Credentials Fund for that purpose, the commission shall study the implementation of this section and shall report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 1995, on the nature, scope, and impact of local assignment policies implemented by school districts pursuant to this section.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the effect of Section 44955 with regard to the reduction by a school district governing board of the number of certificated employees.

(f) This section shall be repealed on January 1, 1996, unless a later enacted statute, which becomes effective on or before January 1, 1996, deletes or extends that date on which it is repealed.