

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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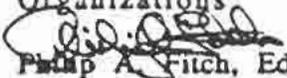


OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

94-9405

DATE: March 9, 1994

TO: Superintendents, Personnel Directors and Credentials Officers at School Districts and County Offices of Education, and Leaders of Professional Organizations

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

SUBJECT: Clarification of Issues Related to Credentials, Certificates, and Assignments for Teaching Limited-English-Proficient Students

The Commission has received numerous complaints and expressions of concern about some school district practices related to employment and assignment of teachers to classes for limited-English-proficient (LEP) students. The purpose of this correspondence is to clarify some important issues related to assignment and certification so that actions based on misinformation or an absence of information may be avoided.

This correspondence has three sections. The first section explains the Commission's policies on teacher assignment related to classes for LEP students. The second section describes the several ways that credentialed teachers can become authorized to teach classes of LEP students. Section three provides information about the Language Development Specialist (LDS) and Bilingual Certificate of Competence (BCC) Examinations.

Section I: Assignment to Teach LEP Students

The Commission's policy related to the certification of teachers who teach LEP students is as follows:

A teacher who is assigned to a class that is not designated as a class for LEP students, which may or may not include some LEP students, is not required to have any credential or certificate other than the basic credential authorizing instruction in that class.

Conversely, a credential, certificate, or supplementary authorization that authorizes the instructional services being provided must be held by a teacher who is assigned to provide either instruction for English language development, specially designed academic instruction delivered in English, instruction for primary language development, or content instruction delivered in the primary language to a class that is designated as a class for LEP students (e.g., an "ESL" class, an "ESL math" class, a "sheltered" class, a "bilingual" class). A teacher who does not have a document that authorizes the instructional services being provided may be given such an

assignment on an interim basis if the teacher is identified on the district's Plan to Remedy the Shortage approved by the California Department of Education.

District decisions regarding hiring, assignment of teachers to classes, and reductions in force should be consistent with this policy.

The table below shows the credentials, certificates, and supplementary authorizations that authorize one or more of the instructional services identified in the policy described above.

Document	Instructional Services Authorized*			
	ELD	SDAIE	L1 Dev.	L1 Content
General Teaching Credential	X			
Supplementary Authorization in English as a Second Language (ESL) or Introductory ESL	X			
Language Development Specialist (LDS) Certificate	X	X		
Multiple or Single Subject Credential w/ a Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (CLAD) Emphasis	X	X		
CLAD Certificate**	X	X		
Emergency Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Permit w/ a Bilingual Emphasis	X	X	X	X
Bilingual Certificate of Competence (BCC)	X	X	X	X
Multiple or Single Subject Credential w/ a Bilingual Crosscultural Emphasis	X	X	X	X
Multiple or Single Subject Credential w/ a Bilingual, Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (BCLAD) Emphasis	X	X	X	X
BCLAD Certificate**	X	X	X	X
Bilingual Crosscultural Specialist Credential	X	X	X	X

* ELD = instruction for English language development

SDAIE = specially designed academic instruction delivered in English

L1 Dev. = instruction for primary language development

L1 Content = content language developed in the primary language

** To be issued to qualified applicants beginning in May or June 1994.

Section II: Ways for Credentialed Teachers to Obtain Authorizations to Teach LEP Classes

Already credentialed teachers can obtain five documents that authorize instructional services to LEP classes. Listed below are the requirements for these documents. *This section provides only a brief summary of the requirements for the documents discussed.* For complete information about the requirements call the Commission's Information Services Unit at (916) 445-7256 between 12:30 pm and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Supplementary Authorization in English as a Second Language (ESL) or Introductory ESL: The requirements for a Supplementary Authorization in ESL or Introductory ESL are:

- possession of a valid prerequisite teaching credential,
- completion of a course or passage of an examination in the methods of teaching reading (depending on prerequisite credential), and
- one of the following:
 - 20 semester units (or 10 upper-division semester units) of coursework in ESL, or
 - a collegiate major in ESL.

Supplementary authorizations in ESL and Introductory ESL will no longer be issued after July 1, 1996.

Language Development Specialist (LDS) Certificate: The requirements for an LDS Certificate are the following:

- possession of a non-emergency teaching credential,
- passing scores on the two-part LDS Exam,
- experience learning a second language, and
- one of the following:
 - completion of a Commission-approved LDS Program,
 - two years of full-time teaching experience with LEP students,
 - one year of full-time teaching experience with LEP students and a TESOL Certificate, or
 - a master's degree in ESL.

In May or June 1994, when the Commission begins issuing CLAD and BCLAD Certificates, no more LDS Certificates will be issued. CLAD Certificates will be issued in place of LDS Certificates. Each LDS Certificate will remain valid as long as the holder has a valid prerequisite teaching credential. The requirements for CLAD Certificates are described below.

CLAD Certificate: These certificates are not yet available, but are expected to be issued beginning in May or June 1994. A complete description of the requirements is in the CLAD/BCLAD Certificate Handbook, available from the Commission's Information Services Unit. The general requirements for earning a CLAD Certificate are:

- possession of an appropriate prerequisite credential or permit,
- experience learning a second-language, and
- one of the following:
 - passage of both parts of the LDS Examination; or

- passage of CLAD/BCLAD Tests 1, 2, and 3; or
- completion of a specified number of units of appropriate college coursework.

Bilingual Certificate of Competence (BCC): The requirements for earning a BCC are a teaching credential and passing scores on the Methodology, Culture, and Language Components of a BCC Examination. In May or June 1994, when the Commission begins issuing CLAD and BCLAD Certificates, no more BCCs will be issued. BCLAD Certificates will be issued in place of BCCs. BCCs will remain valid as long as the holder has a valid prerequisite teaching credential. The requirements for BCLAD Certificates are described below.

BCLAD Certificate: These certificates are not yet available, but are expected to be issued beginning in May or June 1994. A complete description of the requirements is in the CLAD/BCLAD Certificate Handbook, available from the Commission's Information Services Unit. The general requirements for earning a BCLAD Certificate are possession of an appropriate credential or permit and one of the following:

- passage of the Culture, Methodology, and Language (non-English sections only) Components of the Bilingual Certificate of Competence Examination, or
- passage of Tests 1-6 of the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations,* or
- if you have passed the LDS Examination, or if you hold an LDS Certificate, or if you have completed the coursework for a CLAD Certificate, or if you hold a CLAD Certificate, passage of Tests 4-6 of the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations.

Bilingual Crosscultural Specialist Credential: Successful completion of a Commission-approved Bilingual Crosscultural Specialist Program at an institution of higher education and possession of a prerequisite credential are required for earning a Bilingual Crosscultural Specialist Credential.

Section III: Information About Examinations

The LDS Examination

- Effective with the May 21, 1994, and all future administrations, a teaching credential will not be required to register for the exam. An appropriate prerequisite credential or permit will be required to earn an LDS or a CLAD Certificate.
- The LDS Exam will continue to be available to anyone who is interested until CLAD/BCLAD Tests 1-3 become available (expected in early 1995).
- An additional administration date for the LDS Exam has been selected. The LDS Exam will be administered on August 20, 1994. The registration deadline for this exam will be July 23, 1994. As needed, additional administration dates for 1994-95 will be selected and announced.
- Following the first administration of Tests 1-3 of the CLAD/BCLAD Exams, the LDS Exam will be administered three more times, three to four months apart, only for teachers who have previously passed one of the two parts of the LDS Exam. These

* Passing scores on individual components of the BCC Exam will waive the requirement to take one or more of the CLAD/BCLAD tests. See the CLAD/BCLAD Certificate Handbook for details.

teachers will have three additional chances to pass the exam. Those who pass both parts of the LDS Exam will be able to use those scores to earn a CLAD Certificate.

The BCC Examinations

- BCC Exams will continue to be available until Test 4 (appropriate for all culture/language groups) and the appropriate Tests 5 and 6 (specific to a culture and language, respectively) of the CLAD/BCLAD Examinations become available. The BCC Exam for Spanish will continue to be administered until Test 4. Test 5 for Latino culture, and Test 6 for Spanish are available (expected in middle of or late 1995). Similarly, the Commission-approved assessor agencies that administer BCC Exams for languages other than Spanish will be authorized to continue administering those exams until the appropriate CLAD/BCLAD Tests 5 and 6 are available.
- An additional administration date for the BCC Exam for Spanish has been selected. It will be administered on September 24, 1994. The registration deadline for this administration will be August 27, 1994. As needed, additional administration dates for 1994-95 will be selected and announced.
- Because teachers who have passed only one or two components of a BCC Exam will be able to use those test scores toward earning a BCLAD Certificate, the BCC Exams will not continue once their respective BCLAD Tests 5 and 6 are available.