

## COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

812 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814-7000



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

95-9519

Date: November 10, 1995

To: Personnel Directors and Others Interested in Teacher Assignment

From: Ruben L. Ingram, Executive Director *RLI*

Re: Enactment of Statute to Permanently Extend the Local Teacher Assignment Option Created by SB 215 (Craven) of 1991

Education Code Section 44258.3, enacted by SB 215 of 1991 (Craven) provides school districts flexibility to assign staff to teach outside of their credential authorization in grades eight and below following a local assessment of subject matter knowledge. This local assignment option was scheduled to sunset on January 1, 1996. However, AB 1124 (Davis), which permanently extends this option, has been signed into law. AB 1124 (Chapter 927, Statutes of 1995), goes into effect January 1, 1995, and makes the following other changes to law:

1. expands the scope of the local assignment option to grades K-12;
2. requires that local assessment procedures be developed and implemented with the assistance of subject matter specialists, defined as mentor teachers, curriculum specialists, resource teachers, classroom teachers certified to teach the subject, staff to regional subject matter projects or curriculum institutes, or college faculty;
3. clarifies the role of local school boards as approving, not establishing, procedures for local assessments, and eliminates the requirement that boards review local assignments under Education Code Section 44258.3 annually;
4. requires county offices of education to report on districts that are not following statutory procedures under Section 44258.3, and authorizes the Commission to withdraw a local assignment option upon a finding the district is violating statutory requirements;
5. specifies that teacher assignments made by local Committees on Assignment shall be for elective courses only, defined as courses other than English, mathematics, science and social science (thus encouraging districts to instead use Education Code Section 44258.3 for teacher assignments to core subjects); and
6. eliminates the 40% "cap" on assignments made by Committees on Assignment.

The Commission has determined that assignments to core subject matter courses already made for the 1995-1996 year under Education Code Section 44258.7 (Committee on Assignments) will not be affected by the change outlined in #5, above.

The full text of AB 1124 is enclosed for your information. If you have any questions regarding this new law, please call Bob Salley at (916) 445-0233 or Linda Bond at (916) 327-0586.

## Assembly Bill No. 1124

### CHAPTER 927

An act to amend Sections 44258.3 and 44258.7 of the Education Code, relating to teaching credentials.

(Approved by Governor October 14, 1995. Filed with Secretary of State October 16, 1995)

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

**AB 1124, Davis. Teaching credentials: assignments.**

- (1) Existing law permits the governing board of a school district to assign a teacher who holds 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, if the teacher consents to that assignment and the board verifies, in accordance with specified policies and procedures, including specific criteria, that the teacher has adequate subject matter knowledge. Existing subject matter specialists in the development of those policies and procedures. Existing law also requires that those teaching assignments be reviewed annually by the governing board of the school district.

Existing law additionally authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to develop and recommend model criteria, standards, and procedures that school district governing boards may use in making those assignments to departmentalized classes. The commission is required, 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. Existing law provides that those provisions are repealed as of January 1, 1996.

This bill, instead, would permit the governing board of a school district to assign a teacher who holds a credential, other than an emergency permit, to teach any subjects in departmentalized classes in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive. This bill would change the criteria for verifying adequacy of subject matter knowledge to include demonstrated knowledge of the curriculum framework for the subject to be taught and specific content of the course of study in the school district for the subject. This bill would also define subject matter specialists.

This bill would eliminate the annual review of teaching assignments. The bill would also authorize the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to suspend the authority of a school district to use this teaching assignment option upon finding that the school district violated any of these provisions.

This bill would eliminate the requirements that the Commission on Teacher Credentialing study the implementation of these provisions and report the results to the Legislature. The bill would also delete the repeal date.

- (2) Existing law provides that a teacher employed on a full-time basis who has special skills and preparation outside of his or her credential authorization may be assigned to teach in the area of the special skills or preparation for up to 40% of a full-time teaching assignment, as specified.

This bill would specify that the assignment to teach in the area of the special skills or preparation shall be to teach an elective course, as defined, in the area of the special skills or preparation, and would eliminate the requirement that the assignment be for up to 40% of a full-time teaching assignment.

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

SECTION 1. Section 44258.3 of the Education Code is amended to read:

**44258.3.**

- (a) The governing board of a school district may assign the holder of a credential, other than an emergency permit, to teach any subjects in departmentalized classes in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, provided that the governing board verifies, prior to making the assignment, that the teacher has adequate knowledge of each subject to be taught and the teacher consents to that assignment. The governing board shall adopt 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 and implementation of the policies and procedures, and shall include in those policies and procedures both of the following:
  - (1) One or more of the following ways to assess subject matter competence:
    - (A) Observation by subject matter specialists, as defined in subdivision (d).
    - (B) Oral interviews.
    - (C) Demonstration lessons.
    - (D) Presentation of curricular portfolios.
    - (E) Written examinations.
  - (2) Specific criteria and standards for verifying adequacy of subject matter knowledge using any of the methods in paragraph (1). The criteria shall include, but need not be limited to, evidence of the candidate's knowledge of the subject matter to be taught, including demonstrated knowledge of the curriculum framework for the subject to be taught and

the specific content of the course of study in the school district for the subject, at the grade level to be taught.

- (b) Teaching assignments made pursuant to this section shall be valid only in that school district. The principal of the school, or other appropriate administrator, shall notify the exclusive representative of the certified 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. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing may suspend the authority of a school district to use the teaching assignment option authorized by this section upon a finding that the school district has violated the provisions of this section.
- (c) 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.
- (d) For the purposes of this section, "subject matter specialists" are mentor teachers, curriculum specialists, resource teachers, classroom teachers certified to teach a subject, staff to regional subject matter projects or curriculum institutes, or college faculty.

SECTION 2. Section 44258.7 of the Education Code is amended to read:

**44258.7.**

- (a) The holder of a standard secondary credential who, prior to September 1, 1989, has taught successfully in a subject within the department of his or her academic major or minor for a minimum of three years, as verified by the employing school district, may receive a supplementary authorization in that subject upon application, payment of a fee, which shall not exceed one-half of the regular credential fee, and evidence that one of the following has been accomplished:
  - (1) Successful completion, by September 1, 1989, of a minimum of 12 semester units, or six upper division or graduate units, of coursework at an accredited institution in the subject.
  - (2) The securing of a passing score on an examination in the subject approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.
  - (3) Verification of competence in the subject matter by a subject area specialist not associated with the employing school district.
- (b) A person who holds a teaching credential in a subject or subjects other than physical education may be authorized by action of the local governing board to coach one period per day in a competitive sport for which students receive physical education credit, provided that he or she is a full-time employee of the school district and has completed a minimum of 20 hours of first aid instruction appropriate for the specific sport.

- (c) A teacher employed on a full-time basis who teaches kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and who has special skills and preparation outside of his or her credential authorization may, with his or her consent, be assigned to teach an elective course in the area of the special skills or preparation, provided that the assignment is first approved by a committee on assignments. For purposes of this subdivision an "elective course" is a course other than English, mathematics, science, or social studies. The membership of the committee on assignments shall include an equal number of teachers, selected by teachers, and school administrators, selected by school administrators.
- (d) Assignments approved by the committee on assignments shall be for a maximum of one school year, but may be extended by action of the committee upon application by the schoolsite administrator and the affected teacher. All initial assignments or extensions shall be approved prior to the assignment or extension. Districts making assignments under this subdivision shall submit a plan to the county superintendent of schools which shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:
- (1) Statements signed by the district superintendent and the president or chairperson of the district governing board, approving the establishment of the committee.
  - (2) Procedures for selection of the committee membership.
  - (3) Terms of office for committee members.
  - (4) Criteria for determining teachers' qualifications for these assignments.
- (e) The Commission on Teacher Credentialing may develop and recommend general criteria that may be used by local committees on assignment in assessing a candidate's qualifications.