

**COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

DATE: April 10, 2000 00-0011

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

FROM: Sam W. Swofford, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Approved Amendments to Section 80003 of Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Pertaining to the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Authorization

The proposed changes to Title 5 Section 80003 concerning the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential authorization have been approved by the Office of Administrative Law and became effective on March 9, 2000. The text of the regulation is attached. The major changes are explained below.

These amendments to the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential authorization bring the regulations into conformity with the appropriate sections of the Education Code and allow for an easier understanding of the authorization by employers. Any information that was out-of-date, unnecessary, or redundant was removed. These amendments put into regulation what was already in the Education Code concerning teaching in the following settings: self-contained, team teaching, regrouping, and core.

The new regulations authorize the holder of a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential to teach:

- (a) in a self-contained classroom;
- (b) in a team teaching or regrouping setting;
- (c) in a core setting to students in grades five through eight; and
- (d) any of the core subjects they are teaching to a group of students at the same grade level as the core classes for less than fifty percent of their workday. (This is commonly known as the "hanging fifth period".)

**Self-Contained Classroom**

A self-contained classroom is one in which all, or most, subjects are taught to a group of children by the same teacher. Most elementary schools organize their classrooms in such a manner.

**Team Teaching**

Team teaching is defined as two teachers who teach in a self-contained classroom for the majority of the day, and exchange students for the purpose of teaching specific subjects. For example, one teacher will teach history to both classes and the second teacher will teach science to both classes. The students are being grouped according to teacher subject area expertise.

**Regrouping**

Regrouping generally means two or more teachers who teach in a self-contained classroom, but group their students generally by learning level for one or more subjects. For example, one teacher may take the below grade science students from both classes and the other teacher may take the above grade science students. The students are being grouped by their learning ability.

**Core**

Core is defined as a setting in which a teacher who is assigned on the basis of a teaching credential that authorizes service in a self-contained classroom (General Elementary, Standard Elementary, or Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials) to teach two or more subjects to the same group of students in grades five through eight. For example, the holder may be assigned to teach English and social science to a group of sixth graders and may be assigned to another core of English and social science to a group of eighth graders. Any subject may be “cored” and the periods do not need to be consecutive periods of the day. The important part of the core definition is that it is the same group of students.

The last part of the regulation deals with what is commonly called the “hanging fifth period”. Most teachers are assigned to two two-period cores but may only teach one two-period core. The regulation allows an individual serving in a core setting to also teach any of the core subjects they are currently teaching as long as it is at the same grade level of the core and the subjects do not constitute more than half of the teacher’s total assignment. Based on the example above, the teacher could be assigned to teach English or social science to sixth or eighth graders for their fifth period assignment. A teacher would need the appropriate credential or authorization to teach a different subject area or at a different grade level than that taught in the core assignment. Using the above example, if the teacher is assigned to teach math or social science to seventh graders for their “hanging fifth period”, the teacher must hold a supplementary authorization, permit, or a credential in the subject area of the assignment, or be assigned on one of the assignment options available to employers.

**Questions**

If you have questions concerning these regulation changes please call the Commission’s Information Services Office between 8 AM and 5 PM Monday through Friday at (916) 445-7254 or (888) 921-2682 if you are calling from outside of the 916 area code. You may also e-mail us at [credentials@ctc.ca.gov].

**California Commission on Teacher Credentialing****Division VIII of Title 5  
California Code of Regulations****Final Amendments to Section 80003 Concerning  
the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Authorization****Title 5 §80003. Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Authorization for Service.**

The Multiple Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to provide the services described below in grades twelve and below, including preschool, and in classes organized primarily for adults.

- (a) Teach all subjects in a self-contained class;
- (b) Teach in a team teaching setting or regroup students across classrooms as authorized in Education Code Section 44258.15. For the purpose of this section, team teaching is defined as two teachers of the same grade level exchanging students for the purpose of instruction in specific subjects. Regrouping of students is the practice of two or more teachers combining students across classes for specific instructional purposes;
- (c) Teach core classes to students in grades five through eight pursuant to Education Code Section 44258.1. Core classes consist of teaching two or more subjects to the same group of students; and
- (d) Teach any of the core subjects he or she is teaching to a single group of students in the same grade level as the core classes for less than fifty percent of his or her work day.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 44225(q), Education Code. Reference: Sections 44225(e), 44256(b), 44258.1, and 44258.15, Education Code.