



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: July 7, 2008	NUMBER: 08-10
TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing	FROM: Dale A. Janssen Executive Director Commission on Teacher Credentialing
SUBJECT: Alternative Route to Provide Special Education Services to Students With Autism	

Summary:

Effective June 30, 2008, Assembly Bill 2302 (Chap. 41, Stats. 2008) establishes an alternate route for assigning holders of specific special education credentials to provide special education instructional services to students with autism in California public schools. The provisions of this statute will become inoperative two years after the Commission adopts regulations to add an autism authorization or on August 31, 2011, whichever is first.

Key Provisions:

Education Code Section 44265.1 is amended to provide flexibility to enable employing agencies to more easily employ individuals to serve in the shortage area of autism. The new provisions allow local educational agencies or schools to assign a teacher with a credential authorizing services to students with mild and moderate disabilities to provide instruction to students with autism if the teacher satisfies specific criteria and consents to the assignment.

To qualify for this option, an individual must hold one of the credentials listed below:

General Teaching Credential:

- Special Secondary Credential--Mentally Retarded
- Exceptional Children Credential--Mentally Retarded

Standard Teaching Credential:

- Teaching Credential with Minor--Mentally Retarded
- Restricted Special Education Credential--Educable Mentally Retarded
- Limited Specialized Preparation Credential--Mentally Retarded

Ryan Teaching Credential:

- Specialist Credential in Special Education--Learning Handicapped
- Education Specialist Instruction Credential--Mild/Moderate Disabilities



The term of these credentials may be preliminary, level 1, clear, level 2, professional clear or life. Holders of internship credentials may be assigned on the basis of this option if the individual serves sufficient time in the specific authorization of the Mild/Moderate Education Specialist Internship Credential to fulfill the terms of the student teaching requirement of the internship. Holders of special education teaching permits and waivers are not appropriate to use this option.

Specific Criteria

The local employing agency or school must verify that the individual has satisfied either of the following prior to allowing the teacher to provide instruction to pupils with autism (The local educational agency or school must keep verification of the teaching experience or the certificate or other verification of completion of the course work on file in its office.):

- 1) One year of full-time, or equivalent part-time, instruction prior to September 1, 2007, in a special education program that serves pupils with autism pursuant to their individualized education programs and a favorable evaluation or recommendation to teach pupils with autism from the local educational agency or school.
- 2) Completion of a minimum of three semester, or equivalent quarter, units of course work in the subject of autism offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

It is important to note that the use of this local teaching assignment option in the Education Code is voluntary by an employing agency and does not result in the issuance of a credential by the Commission. Individuals employed under this option should be listed by the county offices of education in the category “Other Legal Authority Not Noted Elsewhere in this Report” when reporting to the Commission on the annual monitoring of the certificated assignments in the school districts under the provisions of EC §44258.9.

Important Dates:

Assembly Bill 2302 contained an urgency clause which made the bill effective the day Governor Schwarzenegger signed the bill on June 30, 2008.

Provisions become inoperative two years after the Commission adopts regulations to add an autism authorization or on August 31, 2011, whichever is first, and the statute is repealed on January 1, 2012.

Background:

The Commission’s Special Education Workgroup examined the needs of special education programs and made recommendations to the Legislature in December 2007 to streamline the credential process for special education teachers. One of the recommendations in the report was to change the current credential standards and authorization for teachers working with students with autism.

An agenda item will be presented at the August 7-8, 2008 Commission meeting



concerning the work of the Commission's Special Education Design Team which will include the development of standards and authorizations for serving students with autism. The Commission plans to introduce draft regulations for a Limited Assignment Special Education Permit as an information item at the October 7, 2008 Commission meeting. The public hearing process for regulations is approximately a six to nine month timeline.

Source:

Education Code §44265.1

References:

Report on the Study of Special Education Certification:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/reports/Special-Education-Certification-Report-2007.pdf>

The Commission's Administrator's Assignment Manual will be updated to include information on this local teaching assignment option.

Contact Information:

Commission's Assignment Unit by telephone at (916) 322-5038 (voice mail line) or by email at cawassignments@ctc.ca.gov.