



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

DATE:

June 23, 2009 **Updated July 8, 2009**

NUMBER:

09-10

TO:

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

FROM:

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Executive Director
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

SUBJECT: Credentials and Authorizations to Teach Physical Education

Summary:

One of the responsibilities of the Commission is monitoring the legal and appropriate assignment of teaching and non-teaching positions in the public schools in California. One assignment area recently under discussion is the appropriate assignment for an individual teaching a course such as marching band, drill team, cheerleading, or Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) in which the employing agency awards physical education credit to the students in these classes.

The California Department of Education (CDE) is the state agency that provides general supervision of physical education courses, advisement for school officials, school boards, and teachers in the development and improvement of their physical education activity programs, and investigation of the work in physical education in the public schools. The CDE recently distributed a letter concerning physical education content and credit. A link to this letter may be found in the References section. The letter clarified that questions regarding the *assignment* of teachers should be addressed to the Commission. This Coded Correspondence will address the appropriate assignment of individuals who teach the courses noted above.

Key Provisions:

The content of the course curriculum for a course is the determining factor for assignment purposes. The appropriate credential or authorization for the assignment must align with the primary content or focus of the course.

The credential or authorization held by an individual indicates that he/she has been prepared to teach the course curriculum subject-matter content. The Commission's concern is not generally with the credit earned for the course, however, it may be a guide to determining who should teach a specific course. For determining appropriate assignment, a review of the course title and curriculum content may determine which credential or authorization is the appropriate choice.

On May 11, 2009, the CDE distributed a letter to county and district superintendents and charter school administrators concerning circumstances under which a local governing board may decide to give physical education credit to JROTC, marching band, cheerleading or drill team as part of its course of study for physical education. It remains the purview of the CDE to determine whether the awarding of credit for such courses by a local governing board is appropriate. The CDE also distributed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) concerning physical education. A link to the FAQs is in the References section.

The instructor of a course in which the curriculum content is Junior ROTC must hold the requisite credential to teach ROTC which is currently a Designated Subjects Special Subjects Teaching Credential in ROTC. In this example, the primary focus of the course content is ROTC. The same type of determination would be true for, marching band. The teacher would need a credential or authorization in the content subject area being taught which would be music for a marching band course.

If the local employing agency determines that a course has dual content areas such as both ROTC and physical education, an individual will need to hold a credential or authorization in both ROTC and physical education. See below for information concerning appropriate credentials or authorization for physical education. Information on appropriate credentials or authorization for ROTC may be found in Section I of the Commission's *Administrator's Assignment Manual*. A link to the Manual is provided in the References section.

Appropriate Credential or Authorization in Physical Education

If the curriculum content of a course is physical education, the following credentials and authorizations are appropriate to the assignment. Note that the assignment must be in the appropriate grade level authorized by the credential.

1) Full Credentials

Single Subject Teaching Credential in Physical Education (including internship credentials)

Standard Elementary or Secondary Teaching Credential in Physical Education (*no longer initially issued but renewals are issued to holders who qualify*)

Special Secondary Teaching Credential in Physical Education (*no longer initially issued but renewals are issued to holders who qualify*)

General Teaching Credential (*no longer initially issued but renewals are issued to holders who qualify*)

2) Commission-issued Supplementary and Subject Matter Authorizations may be added to a full credential. They have either a limited grade level or a limited authorization in the scope of the content of the course that may be taught.

Supplementary Authorizations:

Introductory Physical Education

Dance

Sports and Games (*no longer initially issued but renewals are issued to holders who qualify*)

Subject Matter Authorization: Dance

- 3) Holders of General Elementary, Standard Elementary and Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials may teach physical education within a self-contained classroom or a core setting assignment.
- 4) Temporary permits in physical education are issued by the Commission that are available on the request of a local employing agency:
 - Single Subject Short-Term Staff Permit
 - Single Subject Provisional Internship Permit
 - Single Subject Limited Assignment Permit (must hold a full teaching credential in another subject area)
- 5) Lastly, current statutes and regulations recognize that there may be situations of a temporary nature in which a teacher with the appropriate credential is not available. For such staffing situations, the California Education Code outlines various local teaching assignment options. Most of these local teaching assignment options require the individual to be fully credentialed in another subject area by holding a credential based on a bachelor's degree and a teacher preparation program including student teaching. Teacher consent is required for this type of assignment.

Questions concerning how to qualify for the credentials, permits, or authorizations may be addressed to the Commission's Information Services section as found in the Contact Information section. Information on appropriate credentials, authorizations, and local teaching assignment options may be found in the Commission's *Administrator's Assignment Manual*.

Background:

Commission staff has been working in collaboration with the CDE on the topic of physical education credit given for specific courses and the intersection with appropriate assignment. The CDE issued a letter dated May 11, 2009, from State Superintendent Jack O'Connell addressing the issue of physical education programs, standards, frameworks, data collection and reporting, and credit. Questions concerning these topics should be addressed to the CDE staff listed in the Contact Information section.

References:

Administrator's Assignment Manual

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/manuals-handbooks/Administrator-Assignment-Manual.pdf>

May 11, 2009 Letter from State Superintendent Jack O'Connell concerning Physical Education Programs and Credit: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/el/le/yr09ltr0511.asp>

CDE Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Physical Education:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/pe/physeducfaqs.asp>

Contact Information:

Questions concerning credential requirements:

Commission's Information Services Unit by telephone at 888-921-2682, Monday through Friday between 1:00 pm to 4:45 pm or by email at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.

Questions concerning appropriate assignment:

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

Questions concerning graduation credit for physical education classes:

California Department of Education, Marcela Obregon-Enriquez, by telephone at 916-445-4904 Monday through Friday or by email at mobregon@cde.ca.gov.

Questions concerning Physical Fitness Testing (PFT):

California Department of Education, Linda Hooper, by telephone at 916-445-9449 Monday through Friday or by email at mobregon@cde.ca.gov

