

HOW TO CLEAR YOUR CREDENTIAL FOR CALIFORNIA PREPARED TEACHERS

Complete Renewal Requirements Listed On Your Preliminary Credential



If your Preliminary credential has the R14I renewal code then you must complete an Induction program to earn the Clear credential. Induction is a two-year job-embedded individualized program focused on extensive support and mentoring for new teachers in their first and second year of teaching and is commonly offered in cooperation with your employing school district.



If your Preliminary credential has the TPA renewal code then you must pass an approved Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) to earn the Clear credential. Due to recent changes as a result of SB 119, there are new options for clearing the TPA requirement, which can be reviewed on [Guidance for Preliminary Credential Holders with Teacher Performance Assessment Renewal Requirement](#).



If your Preliminary credential has the RICA renewal code then you must pass the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) to earn the Clear credential. Passage of the RICA is typically done prior to issuance of a Preliminary credential, but due to flexibilities resulting from COVID-19, some credential candidates were able to be recommended for the Preliminary credential without having completed RICA.

Alternative Option

Complete National Board Certification

Teachers who are certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) after obtaining a California Preliminary teaching credential can be issued a Clear credential in the subject area in which they have received national certification. The following may apply to Clear their Credentials:

- ▶ **Preliminary Multiple Subject** credential holders who have completed National Board Certification in Early Childhood (ages 3-8)/Generalist or Middle Childhood (ages 7- 12)/Generalist
- ▶ **Preliminary Single Subject** credential holders who have completed National Board Certification in the areas listed under Table 1 in [Single Subject Teaching Credential Requirements for Teachers Prepared in California](#)
- ▶ **Preliminary Education Specialist** credential holders who have completed National Board Certification in Exceptional Needs/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood

Grants for National Board Certification



The California Department of Education (CDE) awards grants to school districts to provide one-time \$25,000 [incentive awards](#) (paid in \$5,000 installments for 5 consecutive years) to teachers who have attained National Board Certification & agree to teach at a high-priority school for at least 5 years. Also, any teacher who initiates the process of pursuing National Board Certification while teaching at a high priority school is eligible to receive a [candidate subsidy](#) of up to \$2,500 to cover the costs of seeking certification.

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What if I can't clear my credential in time?

If your credential will expire before you are able to complete your requirements, it is possible to [appeal for an extension of time](#) by submitting a [41-4 form](#), application processing fee, and supporting documentation, including additional forms depending on the length of the extension.

Please note: appeals for extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis.

Three-Year Extension

To be eligible for a three-year extension, you cannot be currently employed in a teaching position and must verify that you were only employed for less than one school year or that you were not employed in a position eligible for induction. You must submit [CL-884 form](#) and a statement explaining why renewal requirements were not met with a plan to complete the renewal requirements during the period of the extension. Only one three-year extension may be issued within an educator's lifetime.

Two-Year Extension

If you are employed in a teaching position that allows you to enroll in a teacher induction program but haven't been employed long enough to earn the Clear credential, you may be eligible for a two-year extension. Verification of employment in a position eligible to enroll in induction and verification of eligibility for enrollment in an induction program must be provided on [CL-885 form](#).

One-Year Extension

You may be eligible for a one-year extension due to one or more of the following: medical reasons that occurred during the term of the credential which affected you, your family, or a household member, or other extenuating circumstances such as unemployment in the field of teaching, leaving the state, or demands of job or family. Unfortunately, financial hardship and failure to pass exams cannot be used as reasons for appeal.

You must provide a self-written letter stating the circumstances or reasons which necessitate the appeal. If the reason for the appeal is medical, a physician's statement describing the nature and duration of the illness must be submitted and a birth or death certificate may be required, as applicable. If induction is one of the requirements for clearing the credential, you must submit either proof of enrollment in induction or a letter from an employing agency verifying that you will be enrolled once you are employed.

Resources



Information on the California Teaching Performance Assessment (CalTPA):

[California Educator Credentialing Assessments](#)

Performance Assessment Office Hours provide technical assistance and support the sharing of best practices. Please see the link below for opportunities to attend a list of topics and schedule.

[CalTPA Office Hours](#)



READING
INSTRUCTION
COMPETENCE
ASSESSMENT®

There are two RICA assessment options- the RICA Written Examination and the RICA Video Performance Assessment:

[RICA Written Examination Preparation Materials](#)
(from California Educator Credentialing Assessments website)

[RICA Video Performance Assessment Materials](#)
(from California Educator Credentialing Assessments website)

[Free RICA prep course through San Diego County Office of Education in collaboration with Point Loma Nazarene University](#)



Information on the edTPA

[Getting Started](#)
(from EdTPA website)

[EdTPA Resource Library](#)
(from EdTPA website)

[National Education Association Teachers Test Prep](#)

Assessment and examination fees are waived from 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023 or until all funds allocated from the California State budget are USED. Additional funding for examinations fees may be made available in the 2023/24 fiscal year. Check the testing center website for more information.