

Proposed Changes to Commission's Credential Waiver Criteria

March 17, 2003

Summary

Commission staff presented a series of proposals at the Commission's February meeting to change the Commission's Credential Waiver Criteria to comply with the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001 (NCLB). The staff is now making a recommendation to eliminate baccalaureate degree waivers and delay proposals to change waiver criteria to comply with NCLB.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for this work is provided in the Commission's baseline budget.

Policy Issues to be Resolved

Should the Commission change its credential waiver criteria to eliminate baccalaureate degree credential waivers?

Background

The members of the Appeals and Waivers Committee requested staff to prepare an agenda item that would propose changes to the credential waiver criteria to eliminate bachelor's degree waivers and to align the credential waiver criteria with NCLB. The January agenda item proposed the elimination of bachelor's degree waivers as well as no longer issuing credential waivers for teachers in Title 1 classrooms.

Staff is proposing that the Commission make changes to its credential waiver policy incrementally, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on the impact of any proposed changes. For the first step staff is recommending that the Commission take action on the elimination of bachelor's degree waivers. The current criteria for an employing agency to request a bachelor's degree waiver is for the candidate to have completed a minimum of 90 semester units and submit a letter from a college or university stating when the candidate will be awarded a bachelor's degree. Bachelor's degree waivers are issued for only one year except for 30-Day Substitutes.

During the 2001-02 school year the Commission issued 228 bachelor's degree waivers. Of that total, 131 were for Emergency 30-Day Substitute waivers and 97 for specific credentials, those waivers were for 18 single subject, 27 multiple subject and 52 education specialist.

Recommendation to Change Credential Waiver Criteria

- Staff recommends, effective July 1, 2003 the Commission will no longer initially issue any type of credential waiver for a bachelor's degree.