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Action

Certification Committee

Repeal of Numerical Limits on Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential Waivers and Future Rulemaking

Executive Summary: This agenda item seeks to repeal the criteria established by the Commission in October 2014 and February 2015 related to numerical limits of variable term waivers to individuals seeking Speech-Language Pathology Services Credentials. This agenda item also seeks direction to staff to propose regulations that place limits on all waiver documents issued by the Commission, as well as regulations for handling waiver applications from qualified individuals with a disability.

Recommended Action: That the Commission repeal the October 2014 and February 2015 policies in Commission Items 4A and 6A regarding numerical limits imposed on the issuance and/or reissuance of variable term waivers for speech language pathology, and that the Commission direct staff to propose regulations as to numerical limits on all waivers and the handling of waiver applications from qualified individuals with a disability.

Presenter: Tammy Duggan, Consultant, Certification Division

Strategic Plan Goal

I. Educator Quality

- c) Ensure that credential processing and assignment monitoring activities accurately, effectively, and efficiently identify educators who have met high and rigorous certification standards and who are appropriately assigned.

Repeal of Numerical Limits on Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential Waivers and Future Rulemaking

Introduction

This agenda item seeks to repeal the criteria established by the Commission in October 2014 and February 2015 related to numerical limits of variable term waivers (VTWs) to individuals seeking Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Services Credentials. This agenda item also seeks direction to staff to propose regulations that place limits on all waiver documents issued by the Commission, as well as regulations for handling waiver applications from qualified individuals with a disability.

Background

The criteria for issuance and reissuance of VTWs to individuals seeking SLP Services Credentials was adopted by the Commission in October 2014 ([Item 4A](#)):

- 1) Requiring a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology, Communicative Disorders, or a closely aligned field or possession of a Multiple Subject Teaching or Education Specialist Instruction Credential;
- 2) Defining the terms "progress toward the credential" and "inability to enroll" for clarity and consistency purposes; and
- 3) Limiting the total number of VTWs for the SLP Services Credential to a maximum of five (or seven) if the specified criteria is met.

As a result of feedback from the field following implementation of the new criteria for VTWs for SLP Services Credentials, the Commission took action in February 2015 ([Item 6A](#)) to amend the criteria to:

- a) Accept enrollment and progress in an out-of-state American Speech-Language-Hearing Association accredited graduate level SLP program as an additional option for issuance and reissuance; and
- b) Allow up to two additional reissuances of the SLP VTW for individuals who had already exceeded four or more issuances prior to the January 1, 2015 implementation date of the new criteria that limits individuals to a total of five or seven VTWs.

In compliance with the Commission's criteria from Items 4A and 6A, in March 2017, Commission staff denied an SLP waiver request submitted by Long Beach Unified School District on behalf of Suzanne Okin. Ms. Okin appealed the denial to the Commission, citing to an undisputed and valid medical condition, and her request was brought forward in September 2017 ([Item 6A](#)). The Commission waived its SLP waiver numerical limit policy and granted Ms. Okin an additional waiver.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission repeal the October 2014 and February 2015 policies in Commission Items 4A and 6A regarding numerical limits imposed on the issuance and/or reissuance of VTWs for speech language pathology, and that the Commission direct staff to propose regulations as to numerical limits on all waivers and the handling of waiver applications from qualified individuals with a disability. The proposed regulations would be brought to the Commission for approval at the August 2018 meeting.