

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Date: December 13, 2006 06-0019

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

From: Dale A. Janssen, Interim Executive Director

Subject: Update on the Addition of the English Learner (EL) Authorization for the Education Specialist Credential

The Commission took action in June 2006 to embed an English Learner authorization in the Education Specialist program course work for the Education Specialist in all authorizations. The action to require special education teachers to earn the authorization came as a result of the *Williams v California* settlement which states that teachers must have English Learner (EL) authorization before they provide instruction to students identified as English Learners.

As outlined in Coded Correspondence 06-0009, all Education Specialist program sponsors are required to submit an amendment to their currently approved program by December 20, 2006, providing evidence of meeting the specific English learner standards. The standards were included in the Appendix of that coded correspondence. The program amendments are currently being reviewed according to submission dates.

Preliminary/Level I Education Specialist Credentials

All candidates being *recommended* for the preliminary Education Specialist Credential **on or after July 1, 2007** will need to complete the EL content to earn the preliminary/Level I credential with the English learner authorization.

Once the program sponsor has been notified by the Commission that their EL Amendment documentation has been approved, and prior to the sponsor's recommending candidates for the new EL authorization using the online process, the program sponsor must:

- 1) Provide an implementation plan to the Commission outlining when the EL content will be embedded in the Education Specialist coursework.
- 2) Provide a projected issuance date for the candidates who qualify for this authorization.

The Commission will list the Education Specialist programs with approval of their EL amendment, including beginning date of approval, on the Commission's web site at the link found in the Resources section of this correspondence.

All new Education Specialist programs submitted for Commission approval must include the new EL standards.

Adding the EL Authorization to a Valid Education Specialist Credential

Some colleges and universities have previously included the English learner content in their education specialist programs even though the institution could not recommend for the English learner authorization. Holders of a preliminary or professional clear Education Specialist Credential issued on or after July 1, 2003 based on a program completed in California may apply to add the EL authorization to their valid credential if the EL content was completed within the education specialist program.

To apply for this option, the holder of a valid preliminary or professional clear education specialist credential who completed the English learner content in a Commission-approved Education Specialist program on or after July 1, 2003 must contact the institution where the program was completed. The institution will need to recommend the applicant for the EL authorization. This authorization may be added to the valid preliminary or professional clear credential. The new document will maintain the original expiration date of the valid document held but will have a new issuance date. See the section below on the IHE Online Processing regarding directions for using that process to apply.

Holders of special education credentials issued under previous statutes such as General, Standard or Ryan credentials must continue to earn a separate English learner authorization. Holders of preliminary or professional clear Education Specialist Credentials who do not meet the qualification to retroactively add the English learner authorization to their credentials must also continue to earn a separate English learner authorization. For more information, please see the English learner information link on the Commission website at: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/CREDS/english-learners.html>.

SB 1209 (Scott, Chapter 517, Statutes of 2006), added an option to allow teachers prepared out-of-state who hold a valid out-of-state credential that authorizes instruction of English learners to earn a CLAD Certificate by submitting an application, fee, and appropriate supporting materials. This includes holders of preliminary or professional clear education specialist credentials as well as multiple and single subject credentials. Additional correspondence will be distributed to the field in December with specific procedures.

IHE Online Processing

The IHE online process is being updated to include the new authorization code for education specialist credentials. The update, which will allow the colleges and universities to apply online for either the English learner authorization on a preliminary credential or to add it to a valid preliminary or professional clear credential, is near completion and the colleges and universities will receive a *News Flash* when the new code is available with directions for processing.

Internship Credential

Current holders of Education Specialist Internship Credentials (university or district intern) will automatically be deemed to hold an English learner authorization on the date that the program sponsor's program amendment is approved. No new document will be issued by the Commission. The EL authorization will appear on the credential when the preliminary or professional clear credential is issued.

New internship credentials issued after an institution receives approval of their EL amendment will be issued with the EL authorization. Current holders of Education Specialist internship credentials may need to hold a Variable Term Waiver with a CLAD authorization if they are providing English learner services during the 2006-2007 school year until their institution's EL amendment is approved by the Commission.

Teaching Permits

Education Specialist Provisional Internship (PIP) and Short-Term Staff (STSP) Permits with an issuance date of July 1, 2006 or later include the English learner authorization. In previous correspondence from the Commission, employing agencies were guided to request English learner waiver for holders of PIPs and STSPs that also needed an EL authorization. With this change in adding the EL authorization to the teaching permits for documents with an issuance date on or after July 1, 2006, an EL waiver will no longer need to be requested. If an employing agency has submitted a waiver request, it will be refunded to the applicant.

Authorization

The new authorization for the Education Specialist documents will have an authorization code of R359. The text of the new code will be the following:

This document authorizes the holder to provide the following services to English learners: (1) instruction for English language development in grades twelve and below, including preschool, and in classes organized for adults; and (2) specially designed academic instruction in English within the subject area and grade level authorization of this document. This authorization also covers classes authorized by other valid, non-emergency credentials held, as specified in Education Code Section 44253.3.

English Learner Authorization on Another Valid Document Held by Individual

If an individual holds a valid multiple or single subject credential with CLAD/BCLAD Emphasis or the EL authorization, or holds separate CLAD and BCLAD Certificates, that EL authorization may be 'applied to' other teaching certification held by the individual. For example, if the holder of a valid preliminary multiple subject credential that includes the EL authorization also holds a valid specialist credential in learning handicapped, the EL authorization may be 'applied to' the special education credential.

However, if the multiple or single subject credential is not valid, the embedded EL authorization on the credential (emphasis or EL authorization) may not be used for the special education assignment. If a separate CLAD or BCLAD Certificate is held, the EL authorization may be applied.

Resources

Information leaflets for PIPs and STSPs:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl856.pdf>

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl858.pdf>

Recommendation form 41-SPED:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/cig/CIG-LEAFLETS/CIG-LEAFLETS/41-SPED.pdf>

List of Approved EL Amendment Programs:

http://134.186.81.78/CAW_CIG/FMPro?-DB=CIG_Approved_Program_Matrix.fp5&-Format=FMW-ApprovedPrograms.html&-sortfield=institution%20type&-sortfield=Name&-max=all&-FindAll

Questions

Questions concerning the requirements and authorization for the Education Specialist Credential or teaching permit, please contact the Commission's Information Services Unit by telephone at 1-888-921-2682 (toll free), between 1:00 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. weekdays or by email at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.

For further information regarding the program standards and amendment process, contact Dr. Jan Jones Wadsworth, Consultant at jjones-wadsworth@ctc.ca.gov.