

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Date: December 13, 2006 06-0020

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

From: Dale A. Janssen, Interim Executive Director

Subject: Implementation of Senate Bill 1292 Regarding Options to Earn an English Learner Authorization

Senate Bill 1292 (Chapter 752, Statutes of 2006) was signed by the Governor on September 29, 2006. The bill adds Section 44352.11 to the Education Code, which authorizes teachers with vocational and special subject designated subjects teaching credentials or holders of service credentials with a special class authorization to be assigned to provide Specially Designed Academic Instruction delivered in English (SDAIE) to English learners based on completion of a staff development program.

Background

Teachers have had the option to obtain an authorization to teach English learners on the basis of completion of a staff development program beginning with the passage of Senate Bill 1969 (Chapter 1178, Statutes of 1994). School districts, county offices of education, colleges, universities and professional organizations were allowed to provide staff development programs that prepared teachers for certification to teach English learners. Only holders of specific credentials were allowed to earn the locally-issued Certificate. The Commission adopted Title 5 Regulations of California Code of Regulations §80681 – 80669.1 that included a set of twenty-six (26) guidelines for the content and quality of SB 1969 staff development programs.

In 1999, Senate Bill 395 (Chapter 685, Statutes of 1999) extended provisions of SB 1969. In addition to extending the timeline by which education agencies and professional organizations could provide staff development, it also required the Commission to approve all staff development programs and issue the Certificates of Completion of Staff Development. The Commission updated the staff development guidelines approved pursuant to SB 1969 to ensure that the guidelines reflected current practice and were in compliance with federal law. The list of credential holders who could earn the Certificate did not change. In 2004, Assembly Bill 2913 (Chapter 169, Statutes of 2004) extended the timelines in SB 395. The provisions of this section of the Education Code sunset on January 1, 2008.

Holders of the Clinical Rehabilitative or the School Nurse Health Services Credentials with a Special Class Authorization were not allowed to earn the English learner authorization through staff development because the language of the previous bills did not include service credentials. Holders of full-time vocational or special subject designated subjects teaching credentials with both a bachelor's degree and passage of the basic skills requirement were allowed to earn the English learner staff development certificate though many holders did not meet one or both of these requirements. Holders of the part-time vocational or special subject credential were not authorized to complete the English learner staff development program. Meeting the permanent status requirement was also a barrier for holders of vocational or special subject designated subjects credentials.

Provisions of SB 1292

The *Williams vs. State of California* settlement brings a renewed focus to the requirement that all teachers with English learner students hold an appropriate English learner authorization. The provisions of SB 1292 are intended to address the need to provide staff development opportunities for educators who were not previously eligible to participate in the staff development programs or earn a Certificate of Completion of Staff Development but who do need to hold an appropriate English learner authorization.

SB 1292 added holders of designated subjects teaching credentials (vocational or special subjects) or service credentials with a special class authorization to the list of appropriate credentials to complete the staff development and earn a Certificate of Completion of Staff Development. The bill limits these credential holders to complete only the staff development in SDAIE of not less than 45 hours. It does not allow the holders to earn the authorization for teaching English Language Development.

Three requirements were removed in the statute: completion of a bachelor's degree, passage of the basic skills requirements, and the permanent status requirement. In addition, there is no sunset date for holders of designated subjects and services credentials with special class authorization to earn the Certificate of Completion of Staff Development. The requirement to hold an appropriate prerequisite credential still remains.

The Commission, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), is required to establish guidelines for the staff development that are at least as rigorous as the guidelines established for SDAIE for multiple subject, single subject, and education specialist credential holders under the SB 395 guidelines. SB 1292 allows the Commission to review and approve new programs to offer this staff development. Teachers completing these approved programs would be awarded a Certificate of Completion of Staff Development in SDAIE and would be authorized to teach English learners, as specified.

Implementation of SB 1292

The Commission and the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) have agreed to designate the currently approved programs pursuant to SB 395 as appropriate to use. However, the current guidelines are designed for teachers serving English learners in

most classroom settings but the vocational education classroom were not considered in the development of SB 395 guidelines. At its December 1, 2006 meeting, the Commission approved convening a work group of individuals with knowledge and expertise specific to designated subjects to review the guidelines established pursuant to SB 395 for staff development programs. In addition, the Commission will consult with the SPI and develop guidelines that specifically address issues related to designated subjects instructional settings and review and approve new staff development programs so that eligible credential holders can complete the program pursuant to SB 1292. Most importantly, while this review process is going on, the current guidelines are acceptable.

Applying for Certificate of Completion of Staff Development

To apply for the Certificate under the provision of SB 1292, the applicant must hold a valid teaching or services credential that falls under one of the following:

- 1) A preliminary, clear, professional clear or life full- or part-time designated subjects teaching credential in vocational or special subjects; OR
- 2) A preliminary, clear, professional clear, or life services credential with a special class authorization.

The Certificate of Completion of Staff Development will remain valid as long as the basic teaching credential is valid and, similar to the CLAD Certificate, does not need to be renewed. Verification of the teaching or services credential does not need to be included with the application for the Certificate because the Commission already has this information on file.

An individual must submit all of the following to the Commission:

- 1) Completed Application for Credential Authorizing Public School Service (form 41-4),
- 2) Fee of forty-five (\$45) dollars, AND
- 3) Completion of 45-hour staff development program appropriate to the authorization on the “Recommendation for a Certificate of Completion of Staff Development” (form 41-395). *The form has been revised to add a check box specifically for this staff development option.*

Holders of vocational and special subject designated subjects teaching credentials or holders of service credentials with a special class authorization who completed the staff development program prior to January 1, 2007, may use that staff development toward the requirements for the Certificate when applying after January 1, 2007.

Resources

Informational Leaflet: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl824.pdf>

Questions

For further questions about requirements for the Certificate of Completion of Staff Development for holders of designated subjects teaching credentials and services credentials with special class authorization, contact the Commission’s Information Services Unit at 1-888-921-2682, Monday through Friday between 1:00 PM to 4:45 PM or by email at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.