



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: February 28, 2007	NUMBER: 07-04
TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing	FROM: Dale A. Janssen Executive Director Commission on Teacher Credentialing
SUBJECT: Changes to Credentials Authorizing Speech and Language Services	

Summary:

Assembly Bill 2837 (Chap. 581, Stats. 2006) was signed by the Governor on September 28, 2006. The bill requires the Commission to establish a two-tier credential authorizing speech language services entitled the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential. The new document allows a school district to qualify for Medi-Cal funding reimbursement for services provided by qualifying speech language pathologists. Holders of the current Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential may continue to renew their clear credentials or complete the additional requirements to upgrade to the new Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential.

Key Provisions:

New Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential

To clearly delineate the document that qualifies services for Medi-Cal funding reimbursement, the Commission has established the two-tier (preliminary and clear) Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential. The document will initially be issued as a two-year preliminary as required now in statute, with additional requirements to earn the clear credential. The preliminary credential has the same authorization as the current clear Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential.

The new document may be issued in the areas of Language, Speech and Hearing, Language, Speech and Hearing and Audiology, Language, Speech and Hearing and Audiology including Special Class Authorization, and Language, Speech and Hearing including Special Class Authorization. The Commission will continue to issue the Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential in the areas of Audiology and Orientation and Mobility. The new requirements do not apply to these subject areas.

To earn the new preliminary Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential, California-prepared candidates will complete the same requirements as required for the current clear Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential including completion of a Commission-accredited program, basic skills requirement, a master's degree in speech-language pathology, and fingerprint clearance. A recommendation from a college or university with a Commission-accredited program is required.

For the clear Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential, the candidate may apply directly to the Commission and must verify:

- 1) passing score (currently 600) on the Educational Testing Services Praxis II Speech-Language Pathology Test (test code 0330), and
- 2) completion of a 36-week, full-time, mentored clinical experience or equivalent supervised practicum (commonly known as the Clinical Fellowship Year [CFY]). Verification of completion may be on one of the following forms (links may be found in the Reference section):
 - a) Required Professional Experience (Form 77V-21) from the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board
 - b) Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship and Rating Report Form from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

An institution of higher education (IHE) may recommend a California-prepared candidate for a clear credential instead of a preliminary if the candidate meets all of the requirements for both the preliminary and the clear credential.

The IHE online process is being updated to include the new document. Until the online process is changed, please do not recommend for any Clinical or Rehabilitative Services or Speech-Language Pathology Credentials with an issuance date on or after January 1, 2007. The update, which will allow the colleges and universities to apply online for either the preliminary or clear Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential is near completion and the colleges and universities will receive a *News Flash* when it is available with directions for processing.

Current Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential Programs

Changes do not need to be made to the current Commission-accredited Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential programs in order to recommend for the new preliminary Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential.

Upgrade to New Document for Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential Holders

Valid clear Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credentials continue to be appropriate certification to provide speech and language services. Holders may continue to renew their clear credentials by submitting their renewal through the Commission's online renewal process at www.ctc.ca.gov. In addition, holders may upgrade to the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential by applying directly to the Commission. An application, appropriate fee, and verification of passage of the examination and clinical practice as referenced in #1 and #2 above.

Holders of life Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credentials may earn the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential by submitting #1 and #2 above in addition to an application and appropriate fee. If a master's degree is not on file with the Commission, verification of the degree must be submitted with the application packet. A clear credential will be issued which must be renewed every five years.

Out-of-State Prepared

Individuals who are prepared out-of-state may earn the two-year preliminary Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential if the following criteria is met:

- 1) Master's degree or higher,
- 2) One of the following:
 - a) Complete, on or after 1/1/1997, a preparation program from a state determined to have equivalent standards to the California Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential, or
 - b) Out-of-state speech-language pathology certificate authorizing service in the K-12 public schools of the state in which it was completed verified by official transcripts including that the program included a practicum with school-age children,
- 3) Basic skills requirement, and
- 4) Fingerprint clearance.

The one-year nonrenewable credential is available for out-of-state prepared individuals who have met all the requirements with the exception of the basic skills requirement.

For the clear credential, the candidate will need to verify, in addition to an application and appropriate fee, verification of passage of the Praxis II Speech-Language Pathology Test and clinical practice as referenced in #1 and #2 on page 2 of this correspondence.

An out-of-state prepared candidate may apply for a clear credential instead of a preliminary if the candidate meets all of the requirements for both the preliminary and the clear credential.

Local Assignment Option

The requirements in the alternative route in Education Code section 44831 are also appropriate for Medi-Cal reimbursement as detailed in Coded Correspondence 06-0007 distributed in May 2006. Effective October 1, 1999, Assembly Bill 466 (Chap. 623, Stats. 1999) established an alternative route in Education Code section 44831 for assigning individuals to provide speech and language services in California public schools.

Background:

Changes in federal standards governing Medicaid funding reimbursement to school districts for speech and language services raised questions concerning the appropriate authorization to receive the federal funding. California's Attorney General has concluded

that the Commission-issued Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential does not meet the requirements for Medi-Cal reimbursement.

Education Code section 44265.3 authorizes the Commission to establish a two-tier, preliminary and clear, credential with the appropriate additional requirements that meet the federal requirements. Local employing agencies will more easily be able to identify which credential holders have met the additional federal requirements with the establishment of this new document.

While Assembly Bill 2837 had an urgency clause, implementation of the provisions in Education Code section 44265.3 was contingent on a new California's Attorney General's opinion. The opinion was received by the Commission in late December 2006 and the Commission established an implementation date of January 1, 2007.

Important Dates:

Provisions related to this correspondence became effective for documents with an issuance date on or after January 1, 2007.

Source:

Education Code section 44265.3

Welfare and Institutions Code section 14132.06

References:

Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential leaflet:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl610.pdf>

Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential leaflet:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl879.pdf>

Coded Correspondence 06-0007:<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/060007/060007.pdf>

Required Professional Experience (Form 77V-21):

<http://www.slpab.ca.gov/licensing/rpevexp.pdf>

Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship and Rating Report Form:

<http://www.asha.org/NR/rdonlyres/5934171C-AE5C-449F-A6EF-FC69C24222E7/0/05SLPCF.pdf>

For information on Medi-Cal funding reimbursement for speech-language services:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/lea/program/Promanual.htm> or submit questions to the mailbox located on the Department of Health Services home page at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/lea/>.

Contact Information:

Commission's Information Services Unit by telephone at 1-888-921-2682, Monday through Friday between 1:00 pm to 4:45 pm or by email at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.