

## COMMISSION FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND LICENSING

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12 December 1975

75-7612

TO: Deans, Chairpersons, and Contact Persons of Schools of Education,  
Teacher Preparation Institutions

FROM: Peter L. LoPresti, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Phase Out of Fisher Credential Programs and Transition to  
Ryan Programs

The Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 3340 specifically to provide a smooth transition from the previous credential structure to the requirements of the Ryan Act and to ensure that no student would be adversely affected by the changes in requirements. This legislation allows the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing to issue pre-Ryan type credentials until 9-15-76 under certain conditions.

Institutions presently offering programs for standard credentials under Fisher regulations can recommend a candidate only until 9-15-76 for either a clear or partial fulfillment of requirements basis for any standard (Fisher) credentials for which they were approved.

IT IS THEREFORE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT NO STUDENT BE ALLOWED TO ENROLL IN A "FISHER" PROGRAM UNLESS HE CAN FINISH THE PROGRAM, APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE THE INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATION FOR EITHER THE PARTIAL FULLFILLMENT OR CLEAR CREDENTIAL PRIOR TO 9-15-76.

The establishment of new credentials for service not previously authorized under Fisher regulations, as well as new Ryan requirements for credentials previously offered under Fisher regulations, may adversely affect some candidates currently preparing and some who are already actively employed and practicing. Institutions are urged to explore all reasonable avenues to enable such people to qualify for the appropriate credential without undue hardship caused by this transition.

It is within the province of the institution to:

1. Assess the teaching experiences and total academic background of candidates for the credential in terms of their approved program.
2. Waive any or all requirements of their program on the basis of a fair and professional assessment that allows the candidate full opportunity to demonstrate competencies.
3. Judge equivalency and worth of coursework already completed.

4. Establish individual study programs and courses to meet requirements when not regularly offered or otherwise unavailable to the candidate.
5. Offer courses at a time when employed school personnel can take advantage of the programs.

Any student adversely affected by an institution's implementation of the Commission's policy for an approved program procedure has the option of filing an appeal with the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing. Appeal applications must bear a written statement of the reason(s) the institution cannot or will not recommend the applicant. The Commission will consider those appeals at the next possible Commission meeting.

Certain information must be furnished with initial applications for Ryan-type credentials. To speed processing by the Commission, these items should be clearly indicated on the application form. For example, the United States Constitution requirement must be met if a five year preliminary teaching credential is to be granted. If this requirement is not verified, a one year document is issued. The health unit, while not required at time of initial issuance, is required before a clear credential can be granted. Any experience requirement needed for issuance should be verified by means of official letters. If any required examination is not verified by official scores at the time of issuance a one year credential may be granted to allow the candidate time to take and pass the examination. Each application is processed as a complete application. If all material to be considered is not included with the application, as opposed to "piecemeal" submission, it may cause the credential to be granted for a shorter term or narrower authorization than potentially possible.

If you have any questions about procedures please contact either Eli Obradovich, 445-0233, or Blair Hurd, 445-0288.