

COMMISSION FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND LICENSING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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April 1, 1982

81-8231

TO: COUNTY and DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS,
DEANS and DIRECTORS of TEACHER EDUCATION

FROM: John F. Brown, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: New Statutes Affecting Miller-Unruh Credentials and
School District Programs

On September 24, 1981, the Governor signed Senate Bill 906 (Chapter 749) which repeals and re-enacts the Miller-Unruh Basic Reading Act of 1965. The new law became effective on January 1, 1982. This coded correspondence provides information regarding changes in the Requirements for the Miller-Unruh Reading Specialist Certificate, and requirements for the appointment of any elementary school teacher to a reading specialist position. According to discussions with the State Department of Education staff a memorandum regarding the program implications of AB 906 is forthcoming shortly.

Instead of the three avenues formerly available, the Senate Bill 906 (Education Code Section 54121) provides a single avenue for the Miller-Unruh Reading Specialist Certificate, which is: A passing score of 630 on the National Teacher Examination #30, Reading Specialist.

An application for a Miller-Unruh Certificate should include the following:

1. A completed application
2. An application fee of \$40.
3. Original of National Teachers Examination score report

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Senate Bill 906 specifies in Education Code Section 54120 the conditions under which the governing board of any school district may appoint any elementary school teacher to a reading specialist position. Education Code Section 54120, which is self-explanatory, follows:

54120. The governing board of any school district maintaining elementary schools, in order to provide reading instruction under the provisions of this chapter, may appoint any elementary school teacher to a reading specialist position if the appointee has met the following minimum requirements:

- (a) Holds a Reading Specialist Credential issued pursuant to Section 44265 or a Miller-Unruh Reading Specialist Certificate.
- (b) Has completed three years as a successful teacher in any grades 1 to 6, inclusive.
- (c) Is fully credentialed by the State of California to teach in kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 6, inclusive.
- (d) Successfully completed the following college or university courses:
 - (1) A basic course in the teaching of elementary school reading.
 - (2) A basic course in the teaching of elementary school language.
 - (3) A basic course in the diagnosis and remediation of reading disabilities.
 - (4) A course in directed clinical practice in the remediation of reading disabilities. The course may be concurrent with the first year as a reading specialist.

If you have questions, please call our information office at (916) 445-7254.