

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



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

FROM: John F. Brown, Executive Secretary *John F. Brown*

SUBJECT: Additional Exemptions from the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) Plus Other Changes in the Basic Skills Requirement that Result From the Passage of SB1225 (Hart)

With the signing of SB 1225 on July 28, 1983, the following major revisions of the basic skills requirement became effective:

	PAGE
A. 44252(b)(4): Applicants for permits not requiring a bachelor's degree are exempt from CBEST.	2
B. 44252(b)(5): Holders of non-emergency teaching credentials, permits, or certificates applying for additional teaching authorizations are exempted from CBEST.	3
C. 44252(b)(6): Applicants for Health Service credentials are exempt from CBEST.	4
D. 44830(k): This section has been interpreted to allow applicants for exchange credentials to be issued a one year preliminary credential without the CBEST.	5
E. 44252.5(c): Individuals who do not pass CBEST need to retake only the failed sections.	5
F. 44830(n): Individuals entering approved California credential programs must take the CBEST for diagnostic purposes prior to the deadline for application for admission, unless they are exempt by Section 44252.	6
G. Appendix - 44252.7 and 44830(e)(f)(g)(k) and (m): These revisions refer to the basic skills proficiency requirement as it impacts on employment.	7-9

The Commission will begin processing applications under these new statutes immediately. Title 5 Section 80071.4 will be re-written to show those changes which affect this agency. One thing to note, this bill did not affect any credential applicants already exempt from CBEST such as applicants for adult education designated subject credentials in non-academic areas and applicants for credentials to teach adults in apprenticeship programs. Applicants for the vocational designated subject credentials are still allowed a one year deferment from CBEST as are applicants for the one year non-renewable emergency credential.

It should also be noted that SB 1225 does not exempt from CBEST applicants for vocational designated subject credentials. This exemption would be added to the law if SB 1095 or AB 827 passes.

The current revisions are discussed in detail below, and the applicable Education Code Sections are shown in upper case.

- A. 44252(b)(4): Applicants for permits not requiring a bachelor's degree are exempt from CBEST.

THE COMMISSION SHALL EXEMPT...: AN APPLICANT FOR A CHILD CARE CENTER PERMIT OR A PERMIT AUTHORIZING SERVICE IN A DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR THE HANDICAPPED, SO LONG AS THE HOLDER OF THE PERMIT IS NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE.

Although they were previously required to take CBEST, applicants for initial Children's Center Instructional Permits and for renewal of emergency permits are now exempt from the CBEST requirement. Also exempt are applicants for the Special Center Permit. CBEST is still required for the Life Children's Center Instruction Permit and for the Children's Center Supervision Permit because both of these require a bachelor's degree.

Changes have also been made with regard to the employment of permit holders. See Education Code sections 44252.7 and 44830(e) for further information. These sections are reproduced in the appendix.

The following chart gives some specific examples of the implementation of 44252(b)(4).

CURRENTLY HOLDS:	APPLYING FOR:	NEEDS CBEST	
		YES	NO
None	Regular or emergency permit - CCIP		X
Emergency CCI Permit	Regular or Emergency CCIP		X
Regular CCIP	Children's Center Supervision Permit	X	
Development center permit	Special center permit or life development center permit		X

B. 44252(b)(5): Holders of non-emergency teaching credentials, permits or certificates applying for additional teaching authorizations are exempt from the CBEST.

THE COMMISSION SHALL EXEMPT...: THE HOLDER OF A CREDENTIAL, PERMIT, OR CERTIFICATE TO TEACH, OTHER THAN AN EMERGENCY CREDENTIAL, WHO SEEKS AN ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION TO TEACH.

Although they were previously required to take CBEST, applicants who hold valid, non-emergency California credentials, permits or certificates that authorize teaching may now apply for additional teaching authorizations without the CBEST. The new authorization may be issued as either an emergency or a regular document.

The following chart gives some specific examples of the implementation of 44252(b)(5).

CURRENTLY HOLDS:	APPLYING FOR:	NEEDS CBEST	
		YES	NO
A permit or designated subjects credential not requiring a degree	A credential or permit requiring a degree	X	
30-day emergency	Multiple subject	X	
Certificate of Clearance	Multiple subject	X	
Multiple Subject	Emergency or clear special education		X
Multiple subject	Single Subject		X
Single Subject	Emergency limited assignment		X
Multiple Subject	Administrative Services	X	
Clinical Rehabilitative in Language, Speech and Hearing	Clinical Rehabilitative with Special Class Authorization	X	

C. 44252(b)(6): Applicants for Health Service credentials are exempt from CBEST.

THE COMMISSION SHALL EXEMPT...: AN APPLICANT FOR A CREDENTIAL TO PROVIDE SERVICE IN THE HEALTH PROFESSION.

Previously, an applicant for any initial Health Service credential or renewal of the emergency school nurse credential was required to pass the CBEST. Now, an applicant for any authorization under the Health Services credential is exempt.

The following chart gives some specific examples of the implementation of 44252(b)(5).

CURRENTLY HOLDS:	APPLYING FOR:	NEEDS YES	CBEST NO
None	Emergency preliminary or clear school nurse, school physician, dentist, optometrist, or dental hygienist		X
Emergency School Nurse	Emergency or clear school nurse		X

- D. 44830(k) This section has been interpreted to allow applicants for exchange credentials to be issued a one year preliminary credential without the CBEST.

Education Code section 44830(k), reprinted on page 9 of the appendix, allows employers to hire credentialed exchange personnel for up to one year prior to their passing the CBEST. While there is no corresponding clause in the credentialing section, the intent is clear and the Commission will issue one year preliminary exchange credentials without CBEST. The credentials will be renewed for the remainder of the 3 year period prescribed in Title 5, once the CBEST is passed. There will be no application fee for the one year preliminary or the renewal although a complete application must be submitted for each document.

- E. 44252.5(c): Individuals who do not pass the CBEST need to retake only the failed sections.

ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO PASSES ONE OR MORE COMPONENTS OF THE STATE BASIC SKILLS PROFICIENCY TEST IN THE SUBJECTS OF BASIC READING, WRITING, OR MATHEMATICS, SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE DEMONSTRATED HIS OR HER PROFICIENCY IN THESE SUBJECT AREAS AND SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO BE RETESTED IN THESE SUBJECTS DURING SUBSEQUENT TEST ADMINISTRATIONS.

The passing score on each section of the test is 41. A person who obtained a score of 41 or higher on a section of the test is not required to repeat that section again. The entire test must be taken, however, until a passing score has been obtained on at least one section. If two sections have been failed, both of them must be retaken at subsequent administrations until at least one of them has been passed. There is no limit on the number of times the entire test or a section of the test that has been failed may be repeated.

The passing scores will be computed using the highest score on each section obtained at any administration. A person will be determined to have passed the CBEST when the reading, writing and mathematics scores obtained at the same or different administrations total 123 and no score is below 37. It should be noted that it may be to an applicant's advantage to repeat a section of the test that has been passed, since doing so may contribute to increasing the total score to 123, thus making it possible to pass the test even though one or two scores are below 41.

The passing scores of all those who failed the test at prior administrations are being recomputed using the highest score obtained on each section at any administration. Any person who failed the test under the previous rule which required that the test be passed at a single administration, but passes using the new rule, will receive a revised score report and Passing Verification Form by August 29, 1983.

In summary, no section of the CBEST on which a score of 41 or higher has been obtained has to be repeated. All those tested at previous or future administrations will receive Passing Verification Forms and Transcripts when a total score of 123 has been obtained, with no score lower than 37 using section scores earned at any administration. Additional information, including telephone numbers to call for specific information needs of various kinds, is provided in the new CBEST Bulletin of Information. This new Bulletin will be available in school district and county offices and in institutions with approved programs the week of August 15th.

F. 44830(n): Individuals entering approved California credential programs must take the CBEST for diagnostic purposes prior to the deadline for application for admission unless they are exempt by section 44252.

THE COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE THAT EACH APPLICANT FOR A CREDENTIAL ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION, UNLESS EXEMPTED BY THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 44252, TAKE THE STATE BASIC SKILLS PROFICIENCY TEST FOR DIAGNOSTIC PURPOSES. EACH APPLICANT SHALL TAKE THE TEST NO LATER THAN THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF HIS OR HER APPLICATION FOR ENTRANCE TO THE CREDENTIAL PROGRAM. TEST RESULTS SHALL BE FORWARDED TO EACH CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION TO WHICH THE APPLICANT HAS APPLIED.

Even though Education Code section 44830(n) is in the employment section, it does affect institutions of higher education that have Commission-approved programs. The Commission is obligated to implement this requirement as soon as possible, but does not anticipate that the effective date can take place immediately because institutional application deadlines for Fall 1983 may have already passed. Starting with the October administration,

colleges and universities will receive from ETS a roster of scores for students who have requested that the scores be reported to the institution. ETS will not provide individual score reports or transcript service.

CBEST calendar for 1983-84 -- Examination Fee \$32.00

TEST DATE	REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE
OCTOBER 8, 1983	SEPTEMBER 12, 1983	SEPTEMBER 21, 1983
DECEMBER 17, 1983	NOVEMBER 21, 1983	NOVEMBER 30, 1983
MARCH 31, 1984	MARCH 5, 1984	MARCH 14, 1984
JULY 14, 1984	JUNE 18, 1984	JUNE 27, 1984

G. APPENDIX:

The addition of Education Code section 44252.7 and the changes in section 44830 affect many employment situations. The changes are reprinted below for your convenience, but please realize that, as before, the commission has no authority to interpret laws related to employment. If there are questions on implementation, contact the legal counsel of the employing school district or county.

44252.7. (a) Commencing on September 1, 1984, no person employed to work in a child care development program under direct contract with the State Department of Education and subject to regulations set forth in Title 5 of the California Administrative Code shall receive compensation for work as a teacher unless the person has demonstrated proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills by doing one of the following:

- (1) Passing a proficiency test developed by a school district pursuant to either Section 45361.5 or 51216.
- (2) Having met the basic skills requirement of an associate degree at a community college as set forth by Section 51526 of Title 5 of the California Administrative Code pertaining to community colleges.
- (3) Passing the California Basic Education Skills Test.
- (4) Passing a field-based assessment approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

(b) If a child care and development program teacher employed prior to September 1, 1984, in such a program receiving public funds does not demonstrate proficiency in basic skills pursuant to this section, he or she shall be given two years to master these basic skills without loss or compensation, and shall be given additional opportunities to be reassessed. Failure to pass an assessment in basic skills during the two-year period shall be grounds for loss of compensation.

(c) Persons seeking compensation as a child care and development program teacher in such a program who have limited English-speaking ability may be granted an additional exemption to this requirement by the employing agency, for a period of up to one year, if the agency deems that the exemption is in the best interest of the children enrolled in the program. No person shall be exempted from these requirements for more than a total of three years.

(d) School districts receiving public funds to operate a child care and development program under direct contract with the State Department of Education and subject to regulations set forth in Title 5 of the California Administrative Code shall make available to persons seeking compensation for work as teachers in the program the test developed or administered pursuant to Section 45361.5 or 51216.

A school district may charge a fee to persons taking the test pursuant to the requirements of this section to fund the actual costs incurred by the district in giving the test.

(e) The State Department of Education shall make available an appropriate test meeting the requirements of this section to a person seeking compensation for work as a child care and development program teacher in such a center which is not administered by a school district. School districts shall assist the State Department of Education in fulfilling this requirement by making available to the department, upon request, the test developed or administered pursuant to Section 45361.5.

(f) The State Department of Education may charge a fee to persons taking the test pursuant to the requirements of this section to fund the actual costs incurred by the department in giving the test.

44830. (ONLY REVISED SUBSECTIONS ARE LISTED)

(e) Nothing in this section shall require the holder of a child care permit or a permit authorizing service in a development center for the handicapped to take the state basic skills proficiency test, so long as the holder of the permit is not required to have a baccalaureate degree.

(f) Nothing in this section shall require the holder of a credential issued by the commission who seeks an additional credential or authorization to teach, to take the state basic skills proficiency test.

(g) Nothing in this section shall require the holder of a credential to provide service in the health profession to take the state basic skills proficiency test, so long as that person does not teach in the public schools.

(k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require certificated personnel employed under a foreign exchange program to take the state basic skills proficiency test. The maximum period of exemption under this subdivision shall be one year.

(m) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district may hire a certificated teacher who has not taken the state basic skills proficiency test if that person has not yet been afforded the opportunity to take the test. The person shall then take the test at the earliest opportunity and may remain employed by the district pending the receipt of his or her test results.