

## COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



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TO: District and County Superintendents of Schools

FROM: John F. Brown, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Proposed Standards and Procedures for the Participation of Teacher Education Faculty in Public Schools: Invitation for Preliminary Responses

SB 813, the 1983 education reform bill, included a section related to the participation of teacher education faculty in the public schools. Section 44227.5 reads as follows:

- (a) "It is the intent of the Legislature that college and university faculty members who teach courses relating to teaching methods in programs of professional preparation that are approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing have direct knowledge of the way that public elementary and secondary schools function and operate. (b) The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in cooperation with public and private postsecondary institutions operating teacher education programs, shall develop standards and procedures which ensure that each faculty member who teaches a course relating to teaching methods in an approved program of professional preparation actively participates in public elementary or secondary schools and classrooms at least once every three academic years."

At this point, the Commission is interpreting the law to include all higher education faculty who teach courses in methods of teaching.

The Commission has been mandated by Education Code Section 44227.5 to implement this requirement and to consult with the universities and colleges in doing so. As a result, a letter was sent to all of the Deans of the Schools of Education and to the Directors of Teacher Education requesting that they meet with their faculty members and local school district personnel to provide feedback to the Commission to determine what would be feasible for the institutions and the school districts to jointly meet this provision. In the letter, the Commission suggested that the university deans and directors initiate open discussions with their local school districts and county offices of education, and that the school district personnel at these discussions include teachers, school board members and administrators.

However, it may not be possible for the Deans to contact all of the local school districts because of the large service areas involved. It would be beneficial for you to meet with other local districts and submit your comments to the Dean at your nearest institution.

Based on these open-ended discussions, the Commission has asked that recommendations for implementation of the law be made that appear to be reasonable and beneficial and that are capable of being carried out. The responses also should indicate what the group perceives to be the general problems associated with implementing this requirement, as well as the possible economic and personnel problems associated with such implementation.

It was suggested that the group develop a position paper after formulating these recommendations. It is expected that about seventy position papers will be submitted, since the notice has been sent to all of the four-year institutions that have credential programs. The Deans of the Schools of Education will have the responsibility for submitting the final position papers to the Commission office.

These position papers will help the Commission begin to develop policy and guidelines for implementing the faculty participation provision in SB 813. The Commission will use the responses as the basis for its Ad Hoc Committee study at the April 1984 Commission meeting and for its Informal Discussion at the May 1984 Commission meeting. It is expected that public hearings will be held in the north, central and southern parts of the state during the summer of 1984.

The Commission believes that this provision will result in positive events and benefits occurring for both the universities and school districts involved. It will appreciate your willingness to interact with the institutions in proposing joint recommendations to meet the intent of this law. The Commission has high expectations that you, your staff, and county offices of education personnel will be able to help propose new and valuable ways for teacher education faculty to have greater involvement in the public schools of the state.

Thank you for your participation and interest in this provision.

cc: Deans of the Schools of Education and  
Directors of Teacher Education