

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



31 December 1984

84-8512

TO: District and County Superintendents of Schools
FROM: John F. Brown, Executive Secretary
SUBJECT: Changes in Children's Center Permit Statutes

Senate Bill 1023, Chapter 79 of the Statutes of 1984, makes three changes in the Education Code that affect the issuance of Children's Center Permits: it allows the Commission to establish a Limited Instructional Permit; it places the responsibility for verifying basic skills proficiency on the Commission instead of on the employer; and it removes the Commission's authority to issue the life instructional permit.

The Limited Instructional Permit

SB 1023 is the enabling legislation that the Commission has been seeking for several years. It allows for the establishment of regulations concerning the issuance of a Limited Permit to be based on an on-site assessment of teaching competency. The Commission-approved field-based assessment system is fully explained in the proposed Title 5 regulations that staff has written. Those regulations are on their way to the Office of Administrative Law for publication prior to public hearing. You will be notified of the date and sent a copy of the regulations as soon as the public hearing is scheduled. These revisions in Title 5 clarify the existing requirements for all types of Children's Center Permits as well as adding the items covered by SB 1023. The revised regulations specifically do not affect holders of permits issued under prior regulations.

The Basic Skills Requirement

This bill revised Education Code Section 44252.7 which previously required employers in child care and development programs to assure that their employees were proficient in the basic skills. It is now the responsibility of the Commission to verify that each applicant for an initial Regular Instructional Permit, a Limited Instructional Permit, or the renewal of an Emergency Permit has demonstrated proficiency in basic reading, writing and mathematics skills. The effective date of this requirement was September 1, 1984. However, there is a clause in the law which allows people employed in a children's center at the time the law became effective, extra time to verify their basic skills if they need it. The law reads as follows:

(over)

44252.7. (a) Commencing on September 1, 1984, applicants for an initial regular children's center instructional permit, and applicants for the renewal of an emergency children's center permit or a limited service permit shall demonstrate 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 requirements for an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree.

(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 jeopardizing the renewal of his or her permit, and shall be given additional opportunities to be reassessed.

The Children's Center Permit information leaflets and evaluation letters have been revised to explain the basic skills requirement. Commission staff will begin checking for the completion of this requirement immediately. However, since the law provides a two year grace period, we will issue an Emergency Permit to any applicant who submits verification of employment in a children's center as of 9-1-84, but who has not yet met the basic skills requirement. A statement of need will be required with these applications, even if the applicant has met all other requirements for the initial Regular Instructional Permit. The evaluation letter we send with the permit will explain that the basic skills requirement must be met for renewal.

The Life Instructional Permit

The final change that this legislation made was to remove the Commission's authority to issue life INSTRUCTIONAL permits. (It still allows for the issuance of life SUPERVISION permits, however.) The proposed Title 5 regulations set September 1, 1985, as the effective date of this provision, so that it will correspond with the date for the end of life credentials. The September 1, 1985 date is, of course, tentative; it will not be an effective date until approved at the public hearing, accepted by the State Board of Education, approved by the Office of Administrative Law, and filed with the Secretary of State.

If you have any questions about these changes in Children's Center Permits, please contact our Information Services Office between 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. any weekday at 916/445-7254.