

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

1812 9TH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2700

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88-8908

TO: County Superintendents, Deans of Education, Credential Analysts, and Designated Individuals Interested in the Following Categories of Information

CATEGORY #7 -- Special Education Credential Information
#8 -- Special Education Program Information

FROM: *Richard Mastain*
Richard K. Mastain, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Regular Classroom Teaching Experience for the Resource Specialist Certificate

The clear Resource Specialist Certificate requires

- possession of a valid special education credential, other than an emergency;
- verification of three or more years of teaching experience, including both regular and special education teaching experience;
- verification of completion of an approved program or assessment;
- the recommendation of the approved institution of higher education or local assessor agency; and
- the application form and fee.

The law specifically allows a person with a Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential in Language, Speech and Hearing, including Special Class Authorization to qualify for the Resource Specialist Certificate. This is one of the few special education credentials which does not require a prerequisite teaching credential for the "regular" classroom. The problem, which was brought before the Commission at its September meeting, is that the holders of the Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential do not generally have the required experience in a regular classroom prior to obtaining the preliminary Resource Specialist Certificate.

The Title 5 Regulations define "three or more years of teaching experience, including both regular and special education teaching experience" as full-time experience in one or more of the combinations specified below:

The minimum amount of regular classroom teaching experience required is one semester of student teaching. Various other regular classroom teaching experience may be substituted. These may include such experiences as summer school teaching in a regular classroom, or organized inservice programs designed to provide teaching experience with regular classroom students, conducted by a school district, county office, or special education service region, and included in that agency's comprehensive local plan, approved by the State Department of Education.

1. One year of regular classroom teaching experience and two years of special education classroom teaching experience, or
2. One year of special education classroom teaching experience and two years of regular classroom teaching experience, or
3. Two and one-half years of regular classroom teaching experience and one semester or two quarters of full-time special education classroom teaching or student teaching, or
4. Two and one-half years of special education classroom teaching experience and one semester or two quarters of full-time regular classroom teaching or student teaching, or
5. Two years of regular classroom teaching experience and two semesters or three quarters of full-time special education classroom teaching or student teaching, or
6. Two years of special education classroom teaching experience and two semesters or three quarters of full-time regular classroom teaching or student teaching.

The Commission wants it to be clear to employers and institutions who are assisting holders of the *preliminary* Resource Specialist Certificate to complete requirements for the *clear* certificate, what they mean by *various other classroom teaching experience may be substituted*. Applicants will need to verify either the teaching of two summer sessions, or the cumulation of classroom teaching experience through an in-service program, for the hourly equivalent of one semester of full-time teaching to meet the minimum requirement for regular classroom teaching experience. This must be actual teaching of "normal" children in a "regular" classroom setting.

If you have questions, please contact our Information Services Office at (916)445-7254.