

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

1812 Ninth Street
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February 18, 1990

91-9106

TO: County Superintendents of Schools, Selected District Superintendents,
and Credential Analysts

FROM: Philip A. Fitch, Ed.D., Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Supplementary Authorization in English As A Second Language (ESL)
for a Specific Population of Experienced Teachers

Background:

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing has approved a new policy which allows a specific group of experienced teachers to receive a supplementary authorization in ESL. This policy affects only those secondary teachers who hold credentials authorizing service in English or Foreign Language and who have taught ESL classes prior to September 1, 1987 and continuously since September 1, 1987. Prior to 1987, there was no supplementary authorization available for ESL nor was the Language Development Specialist widely available through approved programs or examinations. Consequently, the Licensing Division of the Commission frequently advised districts that those teachers most reasonably prepared to teach English language development classes, in the absence of ESL training, were those who held English or foreign language credentials. The Commission's new policy provides a reasonable means for a limited group of experienced teachers of ESL classes to have their experience and teaching performance count towards a supplementary authorization.

Requirements:

Requirements for this supplementary authorization for this specific group of experienced teachers as adopted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing are as follows:

A supplementary authorization in ESL may be granted to holders of non-emergency Standard Secondary or Single Subject Teaching Credentials who submit an application form and fee and who meet all of the following criteria:

- 1. The Standard, Secondary or Single Subject Teaching Credential lists an authorization to teach English or a foreign language.*
- 2. The applicant has taught an ESL class for a minimum of one year prior to September 1, 1987 on basis of the non-emergency Standard Secondary or Single Subject Teaching Credential.*
- 3. The applicant has been employed as an ESL teacher continuously since September 1, 1987. Breaks in service for not more than one school year for medical leave, parental leave or emergency will not disqualify the applicant for this supplementary authorization.*

4. The applicant provides evidence that she or he has been evaluated successfully for employment purposes in an ESL class no later than June 30, 1991.
5. The applicant's competence in ESL methodology and subject matter has been verified within the three years prior to the date of application by a certificated person in one of the following categories as identified by the employing school district:
 - a. A district coordinator of LEP instruction services;
 - b. A district level consultant or resource person responsible for staff development in ESL;
 - c. A certified employee who holds a California credential or certificate authorizing bilingual or language development instruction; or
 - d. In those districts in which none of the above are employed or are not available from the county office of education or a neighboring school district, the superintendent or his or her designee may verify the employee's competence.
6. The applicant has completed ESL subject matter training by either:
 - a. Completing a minimum of six semester units with a grade of C or better from an accredited college or university in one or more of the subjects identified in Title 5 Regulations, Section 80089.2 for the supplementary authorization in Introductory English as a Second Language, or
 - b. Completing a systematic staff development program of no less than 30 clock hours approved by the employing school district in one or more of the subjects identified in Title 5 Regulations, Section 80089.2 for the supplementary authorization in Introductory English as a Second Language.

If granted, this supplementary authorization would remain in force for as long as the valid prerequisite teaching credential is held concurrently.

Teachers who are currently misassigned to teach ESL on the basis of a Standard Secondary or Single Subject Teaching Credential who meet the requirements in criteria 1 through 5 above may continue to be assigned to teach ESL until September 1, 1992 pending completion of the subject matter training required in criterion 6 above.

This supplementary authorization will be issued only until September 1, 1993.

NOTE: The Commission has consistently interpreted the Pre-Fisher General Secondary and General Elementary credential authorizations to include assignments in ESL. The Commission expects that such assignments will be based on the teacher's preparation for ESL instruction.