

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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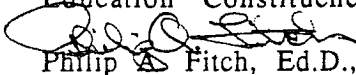


OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

92-9209

DATE: May 18, 1992

TO: Elementary and Unified School District Superintendents
County Superintendents of Schools
Credential Analysts
Education Constituency Organizations

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

SUBJECT: Commission Advisory on Teacher Assignment Under SB 215 (Craven)

Senate Bill 215 (Craven), which became law on January 1, 1992, provides two additional options for local governing boards in making teaching assignments in grades eight and below. The primary purpose of SB 215 is to allow teachers who are licensed to teach a variety of subjects to one group of students in a "self-contained classroom" to teach one or more subjects to different groups of students in a "departmentalized setting". Specifically:

- a) Part 1 of the new law (Education Code Section 44258.1) allows elementary teachers assigned to core courses to complete their teaching schedules with additional departmentalized courses, for up to fifty percent of their total teaching assignment.
- b) Part 2 of the new law (Education Code Section 44258.3) allows elementary teachers to be assigned to teach one or more courses in departmentalized settings, upon local verification of the teachers' knowledge of the subject matter to be taught.

In enacting Part 2 of SB 215, the Legislature sought to provide greater flexibility for local assignment policies in grades eight and below, while maintaining assurances that teachers assigned to teach outside of their credential authorizations have adequate knowledge of the subject(s) to be taught.

Under SB 215, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing is authorized to develop and recommend model criteria, standards, and procedures for voluntary use by local governing boards in assigning teachers under Education Code Section 44258.3 (Part 2 of SB 215). Enclosed for your information is an advisory designed to assist local governing boards, administrators, teachers and others in school districts which choose to make use of Education Code Section 44258.3 to assign consenting K-8 teachers to subjects which are outside of their credential authorization. The advisory contains: (1) Information on the legal requirements of SB 215 and how the new law might be used; (2) A recommended

framework for verifying the subject matter competence of consenting teachers according to the law; (3) Several implementation models for consideration by local school districts, along with sample forms; and (4) Information on resources which may be useful in implementing Education Code Section 44258.3.

If you need further information, please contact Information Services at (916) 445-7254 between 12:30 pm and 4:30 pm weekday afternoons.

Enclosure