

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the
California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

FROM: Sam W. Swofford, Ed.D., Executive Director

SUBJECT: **AB 1620 (Scott): Out-of-State Trained Teachers with Three and
Five Years Experience**

AB 1620 (Scott) which was signed by Governor Wilson on September 17, 1998, contains several provisions that ease the path to California certification for out-of-state trained teachers. On October 8 the Commission sent correspondence explaining one of the bill's provisions which removed the requirement that school districts obtain governing board approval prior to employing an individual on a One-Year Nonrenewable Credential (OYNR). This correspondence addresses the provisions of the legislation that pertains to experienced out-of-state prepared teachers. The reciprocity provision of the legislation will be outlined in a future coded correspondence. The Commission has begun the process to study teacher preparation standards from other states and expects to complete an initial study during the 1st quarter of 1999.

Listed below are the requirements identified in the new statute teachers from outside of California who have five or three years of teaching must meet to be credentialed in this state.

Credential Requirements

The statute lists specific requirements for five-year preliminary and three-year preliminary multiple subject and single subject credentials and the Level I education specialist instruction credential. Listed below are the credential requirements as specified in the statute. The **highlighted** phrases are explained in detail further in this correspondence.

Five-Year Preliminary Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential Based on FIVE YEARS of Teaching Experience:

- minimum of five years of **full-time teaching** in the subject of the credential sought,

- bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university,
- for the Single Subject: **academic major** in the subject area of the credential sought,
- teacher preparation at a regionally accredited college or university,
- valid corresponding elementary or secondary credential from another state,
- evidence of **rigorous performance evaluations** on which the applicant received a rating of satisfactory or better, and
- passage of CBEST (one-year nonrenewable credential available).

Professional Clear Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential Based on FIVE YEARS of Teaching Experience:

- possession of the five-year preliminary based on five years of teaching experience, and
- completion of **150 clock hours** of activities that contribute to his or her competence, performance, and effectiveness in the education profession, and that assist the applicant in meeting or exceeding standards for professional preparation established by the Commission.

Three-Year Preliminary Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential Based on THREE YEARS of Teaching Experience

- minimum of three years of **full-time teaching** in the subject of the credential sought,
- bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university,
- for the Single Subject: an **academic major** in the subject area of the credential sought,
- teacher preparation at a regionally accredited college or university,
- valid corresponding elementary or secondary credential from another state,
- evidence of **rigorous performance evaluations** on which the applicant received a rating of satisfactory or better,
- passage of CBEST (one-year nonrenewable credential available), and
- offer of employment from a California school district, county office of education or school operating under the direction of a California state agency.

Professional Clear Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential Based on THREE YEARS of Teaching Experience

- possession of the three-year preliminary based on three years of experience, and
- completion of one of the following:
 - a program of **beginning teacher support and assessment** under BTSA or
 - an **alternative program of beginning teacher induction** that the Commission determines, in collaboration with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, meets state standards for teacher induction.

Five-Year Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential Based on FIVE YEARS of Teaching Experience

- minimum of five years of **full-time teaching** in the disability area of the credential sought,
- bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university,
- professional preparation program in the requested disability area at a regionally accredited college or university,
- valid corresponding special education credential from another state,
- evidence of **rigorous performance evaluations** on which the applicant received a rating of satisfactory or better,
- passage of CBEST (one-year nonrenewable available), and
- offer of employment from a California school district, county office of education, non-sectarian school or agency, or school operating under the direction of a California state agency.

Professional Clear Level II Education Specialist Instruction Credential Based on FIVE YEARS of Teaching Experience

- possession of the five-year preliminary based on five years of experience, and
- completion of all requirements for the level II credential: level II program, two years of special education experience on the preliminary level I credential, health education, and computers in education.

A teacher already employed in California on a valid credential issued by the Commission who meets all applicable provisions of AB 1620 may apply for a preliminary teaching credential provided that he or she submits a performance evaluation from the employing California school district consistent with the conditions described for evaluations received out of state.

Clarification of Credential Requirements

At the November Commission meeting, the Commission approved the following series of actions to implement the experience provision of AB 1620.

Full-Time Teaching Experience: The statute states that out-of-state teachers must have either three years or five years of teaching experience to qualify for California certification under AB 1620. This experience must be full-day teaching, no part-time or combination of teaching and other school employment will be accepted. All experience must be gained in public schools in states other than California while serving on a valid teaching credential. This experience must be verified by the superintendent or the assistant superintendent or director of personnel on the official letterhead of the district or districts in which the teacher was employed.

Academic Majors for Single Subject Credential: Applicants for specific single subject credentials must have majors in the academic fields identified below or in closely related subjects acceptable to the Commission.

- Agriculture: agribusiness, animal science, crop science, dairy science, natural resources management, horticulture, or soil science
- Art: art history or a studio art
- Business: accountancy, business administration, finance or marketing
- English: composition or literature
- Health: health science or public health
- Home Economics: foods and nutrition
- Industrial and Technology Education: industrial technology
- Mathematics: mathematics
- Music: instrumental, vocal or combined
- Physical Education: kinesiology or physical education
- Science: biology, chemistry, earth science, ecology, geology, or physics
- Social Science: geography, government or history. An applicant with a major in one of the disciplines of anthropology, economics, political science, psychology or sociology may receive the credential in social science if he or she also has a minor in geography, government or history.

Rigorous Performance Evaluations: Copies of evaluations of the teacher's performance in at least two of the years of teaching must be submitted with a verification of their authenticity given in writing by a personnel officer in the district in which the evaluations took place. At least one of the evaluations must have been conducted within the last two years of teaching. Evaluation ratings must be satisfactory or better.

The teaching effectiveness areas on the performance evaluation must include, but are not be limited to 1) the use of teaching strategies that motivate all students to engage in the learning process, 2) the ability to establish and maintain high standards for student behavior, 3) a demonstration of deep knowledge of the subject being taught and the use of appropriate instructional strategies that promote student understanding, and 4) an ability to plan and implement a sequence of appropriate instructional activities. If these areas are not included in the evaluation, the applicant would not qualify under the AB 1620 statute.

150 Clock Hours: Teachers with five years of experience issued preliminary multiple or single subject credentials under the provisions of AB 1620 must complete 150 hours of activities described by the Commission consistent with the "California Standards for the Teaching Profession" (CSTP). The 150 hours of activities must address one or more of the Standards. The teacher will be required to provide the Commission with evidence of the completion of activities that may be staff development, college course work or other activities that may relate to the CSTP. The teacher will need to list activities as they relate to a particular Standard and then write a justification stating

how these activities relate to the Standard. An individual at the school district office or site location who is responsible for curriculum and instruction in the teacher's credential area, must sign the written justification agreeing that the activities relate to the CSTP as stated. This justification must be submitted to the Commission at the time of the renewal of the preliminary multiple or single subject credential.

Support and Assessment Program: Only those out-of-state teachers with three years of experience who are employed by or have offers of employment from districts with approved Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) programs may be issued three-year preliminary multiple or single subject credentials under the provisions of AB 1620. Employing agencies must state in a letter that the candidate will participate in a BTSA program. This letter must be submitted with the application for the credential.

Alternative Program of Beginning Teacher Induction: At this time the Commission has not approved alternative programs of beginning teacher induction, therefore applicants cannot apply under this option. This restriction will be modified appropriately at such time the Commission does approve alternative programs of beginning teacher induction.

Application Procedures

The Commission will begin accepting credential applications from candidates who qualify under applicable provisions of AB 1620 beginning December 1, 1998. Original documentation will be required to verify the full-time teaching experience and the letter of authenticity pertaining to the rigorous performance evaluations. Copies of the performance evaluations will be acceptable since they will be accompanied by the letter of authenticity. Verified true copies of transcripts with a bachelor's degree and the teacher preparation program will continue to be accepted for the academic course work. A copy of the applicant's valid out-of-state credential will also be accepted.

If the applicant has not had the opportunity to take the CBEST, an employing agency may request a OYNR credential based on the provisions of AB 1620.

When submitting the credential application (form 41-4) write **Scott - 5 year or 3 year** (whichever is appropriate to the out-of-state experience) under Section 3 - Title of Credential.

For further information, please contact the Commission's Information Services Office at (916) 445-7256 or visit the Commission's Web page at <www.ctc.ca.gov> or contact us at <credentials@ctc.ca.gov>.