

**CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

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

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

SUBJECT: Status of Implementation Plan for Aspects of AB1620 (Scott) Related to  
Credential Reciprocity

Assembly Bill 1620, authored by Assembly member Jack Scott and signed into law as Sections 44274 through 44274.5 of the California Education Code, creates a number of provisions designed to ease the transition to California for teachers prepared in other states. A key aspect of this legislation is the establishment of credential reciprocity for teachers from states found to have comparable teacher preparation standards to those of California. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) has undertaken the preliminary steps in that process and anticipates that teachers prepared in selected states will be able to obtain California teaching credentials through this provision as early as Fall, 1999. This correspondence clarifies the current status of efforts toward credential reciprocity and defines those activities that must still be completed before individuals may benefit from this section of the legislation.

Education Code Section 44274 calls for the CCTC to conduct periodic reviews of other states to determine if any other states have "established teacher preparation standards that are at least comparable and equivalent to teacher preparation standards in California." Upon a finding that another state meets this assessment of comparability, the CCTC is required to enter into negotiations with the other state toward reaching an agreement for credential reciprocity. However, the law provides that regardless of whether the other state chooses to enter into a credential reciprocity agreement, teachers from that state are eligible for a California credential based upon the finding of comparability in teacher preparation standards. As soon as a finding of comparability is made, teachers trained and credentialed in the approved state will be able to obtain a California teaching credential, regardless of the status of negotiations toward a reciprocity agreement.

Upon passage of AB 1620 (Scott), the CCTC began an exhaustive review of all other states' teacher preparation standards. The review process contains three components:

- 1. Review of teacher preparation program standards** – this review includes standards for approving, accrediting and reviewing teacher preparation programs, as well as comparing specific required components in other states' programs to the required components in California programs for the same credential type. Programs under review include those resulting in certification to serve in elementary, secondary and special education classrooms.
- 2. Review of Basic Skills Examination Requirements** – this review examines the comparability of other states' basic skills assessments to the California Basic Educational Skills Test.
- 3. Review of Subject-Matter Competence Examination Requirements** – this review examines the comparability of other states' assessments designed to evaluate teachers' knowledge of the subjects their credential authorizes them to teach to the examinations California uses for that purpose.

As the CCTC considers all three of these components to be important aspects of teacher preparation, the Commission will determine whether another state has comparable standards only when the state has been reviewed in all three aspects. Over the past few months the Commission has found that some states' teacher preparation program standards are comparable. The reviews of basic skills examinations and subject-matter competence examinations are under way and nearing completion. Once the CCTC finds comparability in all three areas, teachers will be able to apply for California teaching credentials based upon provisions of AB 1620 related to reciprocity. The CCTC anticipates that the full review of a number of states will be completed by Fall, 1999. CCTC staff believes that all comparability studies will be completed late in 1999.

As always, the CCTC intends to keep interested parties informed of changes in teacher certification options and requirements. To this end, future correspondence will be sent as the process of determining comparability and pursuing credential reciprocity moves forward. Once the process is complete, the CCTC will provide clear and complete information as to how and when a teacher may apply for a California teaching credential based upon possession of a credential from a state with comparable standards. Until that time, teachers prepared in other states must pursue California certification by one of the currently established methods. Some common methods for obtaining certification for these teachers are outlined below.

**One-Year Nonrenewable Credential** — Individuals with bachelor's degrees who have completed a teacher preparation program in another state, including student teaching, who have not yet passed the CBEST may be employed on this credential. This provides them the opportunity to teach for one calendar year during which time they can meet the CBEST requirement. After serving on the one-year nonrenewable credential, the individual may move to a credential valid for a longer term, including a credential based upon AB 1620 reciprocity provisions if the individual was prepared in a state found to have comparable standards.

**AB 1620 Provisions for Experienced Teachers** — Besides the reciprocity provision, AB 1620 established credential options for teachers with three or more years of successful teaching experience. Teachers able to verify three or more years of successful teaching experience in another state are now eligible for a three- to five-year teaching credential under which virtually all California initial credential requirements, save the CBEST, are waived.

**Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Based on Education Code 44205 (Pacheco)** – Teachers who have obtained credentials in other states which authorize teaching at the elementary level are eligible for a five-year multiple subject credential. During the term of this credential the holder must complete outstanding California credential requirements at specified intervals to maintain the credential's validity. As long as those requirements are met as specified, the holder may continue to teach in California during the entire five-year period without having to apply for reissuance or extension of the credential.

For more information on these and other options available to teachers prepared in other states, contact the CCTC Information Services Unit at (916) 445-7254 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Automated information is available at this phone number 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This information is also available through the CCTC web site at [ctc.ca.gov](http://ctc.ca.gov).