

**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 Activities of the California  
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

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

Subject: Implementation of AB 877 (Scott)

On Thursday, September 28, 2000 Governor Davis signed AB 877 (Scott), a bill designed to streamline the process for out-of-state prepared teachers and administrators to earn a credential in California. The bill included an urgency clause, which made the bill effective the day it was signed. The Commission is implementing the provisions of this bill for credentials with an issuance date of October 2, 2000 or later. The bill addresses the requirements for out-of-state prepared multiple subject, single subject, education specialists and administrative services educators. This coded correspondence pertains to the changes to the teaching credentials; a follow-up coded correspondence will address the changes pertaining to the Administrative Services Credential.

There are a number of important changes within AB 877 that will have an effect on the method by which the Commission will issue credentials for out-of-state prepared educators. These changes include:

- All preliminary documents will be issued for five-years.
- The California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) will no longer be a requirement for the initial issuance of these credentials to individuals who completed an out-of-state or out-of-country teacher preparation program.
- The one-year nonrenewable credential will no longer be issued for single subject, multiple subject and special education credentials.
- Documents issued based on out-of-state programs will no longer be restricted to an employer.

**Multiple Subject and Single Subject Credentials**

There will be two routes for candidates to qualify for the five-year preliminary credential: 1) three or more years of teaching experience outside of California and 2) those with fewer than three years. The "millennium credential", as the

Commission staff is referring to this document, is a five-year preliminary credential issued to individuals who verify the following:

- Bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college,
- Completion of a comparable out-of-state program including student teaching, and
- Comparable credential

The requirements each individual must complete for the professional clear credential will be determined by the number of years of experience and the number of required courses completed.

### ***Three or More Years of Out-Of-State Teaching Experience***

To qualify using the experience option, the teacher must meet the following requirements in addition to the requirements mentioned above (degree, program and credential):

- Three or more years of full-time teaching experience in the subject of the credential sought;
- An academic major in the subject of the credential sought (Single Subject only); and
- Evidence of rigorous performance evaluations with letter of authenticity.

Prior to or during the first year of the credential, the document holder must pass the CBEST. If the individual does not pass CBEST within one year of the issuance date of the credential, he or she will be ineligible to continue teaching in the California public schools until the test is passed. It will be the responsibility of the employing agency to monitor whether the teaching has passed CBEST.

A candidate with five or more years of teaching experience outside of California will need to complete 150 clock hours of activities related to the California Standards for the Teaching Profession to earn the professional clear credential.

The applicant with three or four years of teaching experience will need to complete an induction program to earn a professional clear credential. The Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment program (BTSA) is currently the only induction program approved.

### ***Less Than Three Years of Out-Of-State Teaching Experience***

The second route is for out-of-state prepared educators who have less than three years of teaching experience. These individuals earn the five-year preliminary with the degree, professional preparation program and credential and must complete the following to earn the professional clear:

- Prior to or during the first year of the credential, the document holder must take and pass the CBEST. If the individual does not pass CBEST within one year of the issuance date of the credential he or she will be ineligible to continue teaching in the California public schools until the test is passed;
- Reading instruction;
- U.S. Constitution;
- Subject-matter competence;

- Fifth year of study with a recommendation from a California college or university or approved induction program (BTSA);
- Health education;
- Special education; and
- Computers in education.

The Commission will evaluate transcripts submitted with each application to determine if the individual has completed some or all of these requirements before issuing the five-year preliminary credential. This evaluation will include using the list of states where the reading instruction, subject-matter competency, health education, special education and computer education have been found to be equivalent by the Commission. Individuals qualifying under equivalency must have completed their preparation program since January 1, 1997. Staff will use the interstate agreement to clear the U.S. Constitution requirement when applicable.

### **Special Education**

Out-of-state prepared special education teachers also have two methods to qualify for the five-year preliminary Level I California Education Specialist Credential: 1) those with three or more years of experience or completion of a program in a state found to be equivalent and 2) less than three years of experience.

For out-of-state prepared special education educators, the Commission will issue a five-year preliminary Level I Education Specialist Credential to individuals who have completed the following:

- Bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college; and
- A professional preparation program completed outside of California and consisting of a minimum of 24 semester units in a credential category comparable to an accredited California program, including successful completion of a supervised field study.

The number of years of experience, the completion of a program in a state found to be equivalent, or the completion of required course work will determine the requirements that each individual will need to complete to earn the professional clear credential. Please note that employment in California is no longer a requirement for the out-of-state prepared special education teacher.

### ***Three or More Years of Out-Of-State Teaching Experience or Program Completed In a State with Equivalent Standards***

If an individual has three years of special education experience outside of California or has completed a program determined to be equivalent by the Commission, the individual must verify the following:

- Three or more years of full-time teaching experience in the disability area of the credential sought; and
- Evidence of rigorous performance evaluations and letter of authenticity;

**or**

- Completion, since January 1, 1997, of a special education program from a state determined to have comparable standards to the California Education Specialist Credential.

Prior to or within the first year of issuance of the credential the teacher must pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test. If the individual does not pass CBEST within one year of the issuance date of the credential he or she will be ineligible to continue teaching in the California public schools until the test is passed. It will be the responsibility of the employing agency to monitor whether the teaching has passed CBEST.

To earn the Professional Clear Level II Education Specialist Credential, these individuals need to complete a level II program at a Commission-accredited California college or university.

***Less Than Three Years of Out-Of-State Teaching Experience***

If an individual has less than three years of experience or did not complete a program with equivalent standards, he or she must meet the following in order to be issued a five-year preliminary Level I Education Specialist Credential:

- Bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college; and
- A professional preparation program completed outside of California and consisting of a minimum of 24 semester units in a credential category comparable to an accredited California program, including successful completion of a supervised field study.

The following requirements must be completed before the professional clear level II credential will be issued:

- Prior to or within the first year of issuance of the credential the must pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test. If the individual does not pass CBEST within one year of the issuance date of the credential he or she will be ineligible to continue teaching in the California public schools until the test is passed. It will be the responsibility of the employing agency to monitor whether the teaching has passed CBEST.;
- US. Constitution course or examination;
- Developing English Language Skills, including Reading, course;
- Verification of subject-matter competence (Early Childhood Special Education applicants are exempt from this requirement);
- At least three semester units in non-special education pedagogy related to teaching basic academic skills and content areas;
- At least one semester unit of supervised field experience in general education verified by transcript or 45 clock hours with non-special education students verified by the employing agency;
- Health Education course;
- Computer Education course;
- Verification of two years teaching experience in special education; and
- Completion of a Level II individualized induction plan including a formal recommendation for the Professional Clear Level II Credential by the college

or university through which the individualized induction plan was completed.

The Commission will evaluate transcripts submitted with the application to determine if the individual has completed some or all of these requirements before issuing the five-year preliminary credential. Staff will use the interstate agreement to clear the U.S. Constitution requirement, when applicable.

### **Course Descriptions**

Under this new “millennium” credentialing structure, the Commission will now require that course descriptions of course work be included with the initial application for those course not clear through experience or equivalency. It is important that the initial evaluation be accurate because requirements that are not met through this evaluation must be completed before a professional clear credential can be issued. The applicant will have a full five years to complete all requirements except CBEST.

### **Reading Instruction Requirement**

The Multiple Subject, Single Subject and Education Specialist Credentials all require a course in reading instruction. The equivalency study completed by the Commission during April and May of this year included the reading instruction course. Individuals who completed a reading course in a state that does not have an equivalent reading instruction course must either submit a course description of the completed reading course, or complete a reading instruction course at a California university. For multiple subject credential holders passage of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) will meet the reading instruction requirement. If the reading course was completed in a non-equivalency state, there must be evidence that the course included systematic study of phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding; literature, language and comprehension; and diagnostic and early intervention techniques.

### **Holders of Credentials Previously Issued Based on Out-Of-State Preparation**

The Commission is aware that individuals currently holding one-year nonrenewable credentials, two-year preliminary, and “Pacheco” credentials may benefit from the provisions of AB 877. The Commission is currently working on the procedures for these credential holders to transition to the millennium credentials. A Credential Information Alert will follow during the later part of October to explain the transition procedure.

### **Further Information**

If you have questions regarding the implementation of AB 877 please contact our Information Services unit at (916) 445-7254 or toll-free outside the 916 area code at (888) 921-2682. You may also e-mail us at <credentials@ctc.ca.gov>. Please visit the Commission’s web site at [www.ctc.ca.gov](http://www.ctc.ca.gov) to view leaflets explaining in detail the requirements for the credentials outlined in this coded correspondence.