

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: Implementation of Senate Bill 299

On September 24, 2001, Governor Davis signed SB 299 (Scott), a bill containing numerous provisions pertaining to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. This correspondence addresses those provisions pertaining to out-of-state prepared special education teachers, California trained applicants who obtain National Board Certification, individuals using Peace Corps teaching experience and coursework applicable toward a credential. This bill will become effective January 1, 2002.

Education Specialist

Current statute allows applicants to apply for the Education Specialist Level I Credential using three years of out-of-state special education teaching experience. While holding the Level I credential, the applicant is required to complete a Commission-approved Level II Education Specialist program and be formally recommended by the institution for the professional clear. SB 299 allows out of state trained teachers, with three to four years of out-of-state teaching experience to complete a Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment program (BTSA) to qualify for the professional clear. The applicant can apply directly to the Commission.

SB 299 also opens the door for teachers who have five or more years of out of state special education teaching experience to waive all requirements except CBEST for the Education Specialist Level I Credential. Applicants with five or more years of out-of-state teaching experience must verify completion of 150 clock hours of activities aligned with the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP) to qualify for the Professional Clear Level II Education Specialist Credential.

The minimum requirements for the preliminary level I credential and detailed information can be found on the Commission's web page at www.ctc.ca.gov under credential information.

Transition Policy

Individuals currently holding an Education Specialist Level I Credential issued on the basis of out-of-state special education teaching experience are also eligible to obtain the professional clear level II credential under SB 299 provisions. To earn the professional clear credential, the holder with three or four years of out-of-state teaching experience will need to submit a letter signed by the employer's BTSA Director on the employer's official letterhead. Credential holders with five or more years of out-of-state special education teaching experience will need to resubmit a letter verifying five or more years of out-of-state teaching experience and completion of 150 clock hours of activities aligned to the California Standards for the Teaching Profession. The out-of-state experience must be verified by the superintendent, assistant superintendent, or director of personnel on the official letterhead of the district where the teacher was employed outside of California. The 150 hours of activities must be verified on form CL-820AX and signed by the employer's director of curriculum and instruction in the subject area listed on the credential.

National Board Certification

Another provision in SB 299 addresses California trained teachers who hold a California preliminary multiple subject, single subject or education specialist credential and obtains *National Board Certification*. This change allows these individuals to obtain a professional clear credential in the subject area in which they received national certification. Individuals meeting this provision will need to submit a copy of the National Board Certificate, a completed credential application form (41-4), and the appropriate fee. Please refer to coded correspondence #01-0005 for an updated equivalency chart that identifies the subject areas offered by the National Board and the equivalent California credential.

Peace Corps Experience

An additional provision of this bill pertains to those applicants using Peace Corps teaching experience to obtain a preliminary multiple subject or single subject teaching credential. Applicants may submit certification from the Director of the Peace Corps of the United States, as well as the *Peace Corps Country Director* to verify completion of not less than 18 months in a Peace Corps teaching assignment in a foreign country, during which time 50 percent or more of his or her duties consisted of classroom teaching of resident children of the foreign country.

Non-WASC Accredited Institutions Operating in California

Currently the Commission accepts bachelors or higher degrees from California centers of regionally accredited institutions that are headquartered in other states but are not

accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Coursework could be used toward the requirements for an emergency multiple subject, single subject or substitute permit *only*.

SB 299 allows an applicant who has completed coursework at the California campus of a regionally accredited institution, but not accredited by WASC, to use that coursework for any credentialing purpose including supplementary authorizations, U.S. Constitution, health education, mainstreaming or computer education requirements, and child development permits. The coursework continues to be acceptable for the emergency permits.

Effective Date

The provisions of SB 299 mentioned in this coded correspondence become effective with a credential issuance date of January 1, 2002, or after.

For further information, please contact the Commission's Information Services Office at (916) 445-7256 or toll free 888-921-2682 or visit our website at www.ctc.ca.gov or e-mail us at credentials@ctc.ca.gov