



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: September 7, 2010	NUMBER: 10-15
TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing	FROM: Dale A. Janssen Executive Director Commission on Teacher Credentialing
SUBJECT: Alternative Route to Provide Special Education Services to Students With Autism	

Summary:

Assembly Bill (AB) 2160 (Chap. 134, Stats. 2010) extends an alternate route for assigning holders of specific special education credentials to provide special education instructional services to students with autism in California public schools.

The bill extends the sunset date from August 1, 2011 to October 1, 2013. The date repealing the Education Code section is extended from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2014.

Key Provisions:

Education Code Section 44265.1 provides flexibility to enable employing agencies to more easily employ individuals to serve in the shortage area of autism. The provisions allow local educational agencies or schools to assign a teacher with a credential authorizing services to students with mild and moderate disabilities to provide instruction to students with autism if the teacher satisfies specific criteria and consents to the assignment.

To qualify for this option, an individual must hold one of the credentials listed below:

General Teaching Credential:

- Special Secondary Credential--Mentally Retarded
- Exceptional Children Credential--Mentally Retarded

Standard Teaching Credential:

- Teaching Credential with Minor--Mentally Retarded
- Restricted Special Education Credential--Educable Mentally Retarded
- Limited Specialized Preparation Credential--Mentally Retarded

Ryan Teaching Credential:

- Specialist Credential in Special Education--Learning Handicapped
- Education Specialist Instruction Credential--Mild/Moderate Disabilities

The term of these credentials may be preliminary, Level 1, clear, Level 2, professional clear or life. Holders of intern credentials may be assigned on the basis

of this option if the individual serves sufficient time in the specific authorization of the Mild/Moderate Education Specialist Internship Credential to fulfill the terms of the student teaching requirement of the intern credential. This option is not appropriate for holders of special education teaching permits and waivers.

Specific Criteria

The local employing agency or school must verify that the individual has satisfied either of the following prior to allowing the teacher to provide instruction to pupils with autism (The local educational agency or school must keep verification of the teaching experience or the certificate or other verification of completion of the course work on file.):

- 1) One year of full-time, or equivalent part-time, instruction prior to September 1, 2007, in a special education program that serves pupils with autism pursuant to their individualized education programs and a favorable evaluation or recommendation to teach pupils with autism from the local educational agency or school.
- 2) Completion of a minimum of three semester, or equivalent quarter, units of course work in the subject of autism offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

It is important to note that the use of this local teaching assignment option is voluntary by an employing agency and does not result in the issuance of a credential by the Commission. Individuals employed under this option should be listed by the county offices of education in the category “Other Legal Authority Not Noted Elsewhere in this Report” when reporting to the Commission on the annual monitoring of the certificated assignments in the school districts under the provisions of EC §44258.9.

EC §44265.2 contains a similar employment option allowing individuals who hold a credential authorizing them to teach students with moderate/severe disabilities to also teach children who are three and four years of age and who are diagnosed as autistic. This employment option has not been extended. It becomes inoperative on August 31, 2011 and is repealed on January 1, 2012. The sunset and repeal dates for this local teaching assignment option is different from the sunset and repeal dates in section 44265.1 as the provisions were addressed in separate legislation in 2008.

Important Dates:

AB 2160 becomes law January 1, 2011.

The sunset date is extended from August 1, 2011, to October 1, 2013. The date repealing the Education Code section is extended from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2014.

Background:

The Commission’s Special Education Workgroup examined the needs of special education programs and made recommendations to the Legislature in December 2007

to streamline the credential process for special education teachers. One of the recommendations in the report was to change the current credential standards and authorization for teachers working with students with autism.

The Office of Administrative Law approved regulations for a Special Education Limited Assignment Permit (SELAP) and Added Authorizations in Special Education (AASE) effective July 3, 2009.

The SELAP and the AASE are options for individuals to earn an authorization in autism. The SELAP is a bridge to allow individuals time to complete requirements to earn an AASE. The AASEs allow flexibility for local employing agencies to assign teachers to serve students in more than one special education specialty area and for teachers to be appropriately assigned in a class with students needing services in more than one special education specialty area. The AASEs are issued in six specific subject areas: autism spectrum disorders, deaf-blind, emotional disturbance, orthopedically impairment, other health impairment, and traumatic brain injury.

Source:

Education Code §44265.1

References:

Coded Correspondence 09-15 on the Special Education Limited Assignment Permit:
<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2009/0915.pdf>

Coded Correspondence 09-16 on Added Authorizations in Special Education:
<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2009/0916.pdf>

The Commission's *Administrator's Assignment Manual* will be updated to include information on the Local Teaching Assignment Option

Contact Information:

Commission's Assignment Unit by telephone at (916) 322-5038 (voice mail line) or by email at cawassignments@ctc.ca.gov.