



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: June 29, 2015	NUMBER: 15-05
TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing	FROM: Mary Vixie Sandy Executive Director Commission on Teacher Credentialing
SUBJECT: Variable Term Waiver for the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential	

Summary:

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) adopted new criteria for the initial issuance and reissuance of a Variable Term Waiver (VTW) for the Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Services Credential and authorized staff to approve or deny VTWs based on the adopted criteria. The criteria became effective on January 1, 2015.

Required criteria for initial issuance includes:

- Hold Bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology or hold a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential or an Education Specialist Credential; and
- Enrollment in California or out-of-state program.

Required criteria for reissuance includes:

- Enrollment in California or out-of-state program; and
- Verify progress towards issuance of credential; and
- No more than five waivers with another two possible if specific criteria are met.

Key Provisions:

Requirements for Initial Issuance

1. For the initial issuance of a VTW for the SLP Services Credential individuals must verify **one** of the following:

- a. Bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited college or university in Speech-Language Pathology, Communicative Disorder, or a closely aligned field. Examples of closely aligned fields are listed in *Appendix A.*; or

- b. A valid California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, Education Specialist Instruction Credential, or older equivalent credential.

2. Program Enrollment – individuals must verify **one** of the following:

- a. Enrollment in a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program with an original letter on official letterhead from the Commission approved SLP program verifying program enrollment; or
- b. Enrollment in an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program, with an original letter on official letterhead from the out-of-state ASHA program; or
- c. Verify an inability to enroll in a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program and confirm that all requirements for entry are met by **one** of the following methods:
 - i. A verification notice from the college or university of an inability to enroll in a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program (i.e., within 100 miles or available online) due specifically to limitations of space or due to a mismatch between the requested initial employment date and the program enrollment date; or
 - ii. Confirmation from a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program that all minimum admission requirements were met by the applicant but enrollment was denied due to space limitations; or
 - iii. Documentation submitted by the employing agency that verifies the applicant met all minimum admission requirements for a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program and verification of application and denial by the program.
- d. For holders of a valid Multiple Subject Teaching or Education Specialist Instruction Credential:
 - i. Submit a verification of intent to enroll in a minimum of six semester units of coursework in Speech-Language Pathology or Communicative Disorders coursework appropriate for admission to a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program.

Please note: applicants who verify Program Enrollment through option a or b will not be held for requirement 1.

Requirements for Reissuance

Individuals must demonstrate adequate progress toward earning the SLP Services Credential for reissuance of the VTW by **one** of the following:

- a. Completing a minimum of six semester units toward completion of a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program; or

- b. Completing a minimum of six semester units toward completion of an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program; or
- c. For individuals who hold a valid Multiple Subject Teaching or Education Specialist Instruction Credential:
 - i. Complete a minimum of six semester units of coursework in Speech-Language Pathology or Communicative Disorders necessary for admission to a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program; or
- d. Verify an inability to enroll in a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program and confirm that all requirements for entry are met by **one** of the following methods:
 - i. A verification notice from the college or university of an inability to enroll in a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program (i.e., within 100 miles or available online) due specifically to limitations of space or due to a mismatch between the requested initial employment date and the program enrollment date; or
 - ii. Confirmation from a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program that all minimum admission requirements were met by the applicant but enrollment was denied due to space limitations; or
 - iii. Documentation submitted by the employing agency that verifies the applicant met all minimum admission requirements for a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program and verification of application and denial by the program.

Number of Reissuances

The number of VTWs for the SLP Services Credential will be limited to five total issuances (initial issuance and four reissuances), with the option for an employing agency to request up to two more reissuances for the following specific circumstances:

- The individual holds a valid Multiple Subject Teaching Credential or Education Specialist Instruction Credential and must verify active enrollment in a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program. A minimum of six semester units in the approved program must be completed for each of the two subsequent reissuances; or
- The individual qualified for one or more reissuances based on a valid medical appeal as outlined in Credential Leaflet AL-3 and submits a letter verifying active enrollment in a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential Program or an out-of-state ASHA accredited graduate level SLP program; or
- An individual who exceeded four or more issuances of the VTW for the SLP Services Credential prior to January 1, 2015 must submit a letter verifying active enrollment and

progress in either a Commission-approved SLP Services Credential program or an out-of-state ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program.

Important Dates:

The Commission adopted the initial SLP VTW criteria with an effective date of January 1, 2015. Expanded criteria were adopted at the February 2015 meeting.

Background:

A credential waiver is an employment option available to local education agencies when there is a shortage of credentialed personnel. The Commission has had the responsibility for granting credential waivers since July 1994. A credential waiver is the option of last resort for employing agencies to legally assign an individual who is not appropriately credentialed.

The VTW allows the employing agency to fill the assignment while searching for a fully credentialed educator and gives the waiver holder additional time to complete the requirements for the associated credential. The VTW is restricted to service with the local education agency granting the waiver and is generally issued for one school year with specific criteria set for the reissuance of a subsequent waiver. While the VTW for the SLP Services Credential is restricted to service with the employing agency that requested the waiver, the authorization of the SLP VTW is the same as the SLP Services Credential.

The Commission approved criteria to strengthen the requirements for the initial issuance and reissuance of the VTW for the SLP Services Credential. The adopted criteria will increase assurance that individuals in the schools who hold VTWs for the SLP Services Credential meet appropriate minimum standards of competency to provide SLP services and are on the preparation pathway towards becoming fully credentialed.

Source:

Title 5, California Code of Regulations, sections 80121, 80122, 80124 and 80125 pertaining to Variable Term Waivers

References:

Waiver Requests Guidebook, Edition 2014:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/manuals-handbooks/WaiverHandbook.pdf>

List of Commission-approved SLP program:

http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC_apm/ORESS_slp_lsh.php

ASHA-accredited programs:

www.asha.org/Academic/accreditation/CAA-Accredited-Programs

Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential Information leaflet CL-879:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl879.pdf>

Extensions by Appeal for Credentials and Permits Information leaflet AL-3:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/al3.pdf>

Contact Information:

Questions concerning Variable Term Waivers: Email waivers@ctc.ca.gov.

Credentialing questions can be directed to the Commission's Information Services Unit by Email at credentials@ctc.ca.gov, or by telephone to (916) 322-4974 Monday through Friday from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Appendix A

Examples of Closely Aligned Fields

Commission adopted criteria state that a waiver applicant must hold a Bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited college or university in Speech-Language Pathology, Communicative Disorder, or a closely aligned field. The information below provides examples of acceptable closely aligned fields but is not meant to be all inclusive.

Communication and Learning Disorders	Speech and Language Disabilities
Communication Disorders	Speech-Language Sciences
Communication Sciences and Disorders	Speech-Language Sciences and Disorders
Language, Speech, and Hearing	Speech Pathology
Speech and Hearing	Speech Pathology and Audiology
Speech and Hearing Sciences	Speech Therapy
Speech Language and Hearing Science	Speech Sciences