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TO:

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

FROM:

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Executive Director
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

SUBJECT: Approved Amendments to Title 5 Regulations Pertaining to the Period of Validity of Examinations for Certification

Summary:

Amendments to Title 5 sections 80015, 80015.1, and 80071 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) pertaining to the period of validity of examinations for certification were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and will become effective on April 1, 2017. The approved amendments will change the period examinations for certification are valid to be used toward obtaining a credential or other teaching or services authorizations from the present five years to ten years.

Key Provisions:

The approved amendments include the following changes:

- Extend the validity period of examination scores from five to ten years; and
- Provide a general cleanup of regulations, deleting references to examinations no longer administered for certification use and updating references to application processes found in regulations recently approved.

Background:

Education Code §44225(a)(1) allows the Commission to grant preliminary credentials to individuals who meet the credentialing requirements, including either passage of a subject matter examination or completion of a subject matter program:

“The preliminary teaching credential, to be granted upon possession of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution in a subject other than professional education, completion of an accredited program of professional preparation, and either successful passage of an examination or assessment that has been adopted or approved by the commission in the subject

or subjects appropriate to the grade level to be taught, to include college-level reading, writing, and mathematics skills, or completion of an accredited program of subject matter preparation and successful passage of the basic skills proficiency test...”

5 CCR §80071(b) had previously set the validity period of all examinations used for credentialing at five years, unless otherwise set by statute or another regulation. At the June 2016 Commission meeting, Commission members determined that the five-year period for exam score validity could create situations for prospective educators that would hinder their progress toward earning a credential and approved amendments to regulations to extend the validity period of examination scores from five to ten years.

The longer term of validity will prevent many credential candidates from being forced to invest added time and expense in retaking previously passed examinations whose terms of validity expired due to the additional time now needed by many to complete all their program requirements as compared to past years. The extended period of validity also maintains a timeframe sufficient to allow for the periodic revision of examinations. This assures they remain aligned with current standards and frameworks adopted by the California State Board of Education, thus assuring credential candidates are held to the most up to date standards.

Examinations for California certification that were discontinued and no longer being administered as of January 1, 2017 are excluded from the change in the approved regulations to a ten-year validity period. These examinations remain subject to the term of validity in force at the time they were administered. For example, the Specialized Science examinations are no longer administered, having been discontinued after the last administration of the examinations on July 11, 2015. Specialized Science examinations passed by educators will remain valid for their initial certification use for five years according to the term of validity in force at the time the examinations were taken and will no longer be valid for this purpose after August 1, 2020.

The approved regulations also include a general cleanup of the regulation sections, deleting references to examinations no longer administered for certification use and sunset dates which have passed, and updating references to application processes found in other sections of regulations recently approved.

Important Dates:

January 1, 2017 – Examinations no longer administered for certification use as of this date will not come under the extension of time provided in the approved regulations. These examinations will remain valid for certification use according to the 5-year time limit, or other time limit set in statute or regulations, that was in force on the date an educator passed the examination.

April 1, 2017 – The extension of the period of validity for examinations administered for certification from five to ten years goes into effect. Examinations for certification passed after April 1, 2007 will now come under the ten-year window of validity, with the exception of examinations that have been discontinued, as referenced above.



- training is to be verified by a letter signed by an authorized representative of the BTPP or county or district program.
- (C) Successful completion of the training in a language other than English given by the Peace Corps to volunteers preparing to serve in a non-English speaking country, verified by official Peace Corps documentation.
 - (D) Passage of Test II or III of the CSET: World Languages Examinations depending on the specific language as detailed in Section 80015.3(c)(3), verified by an official score report.
 - (E) Passage of any nationally administered, standardized examination in a language other than English for which the Commission has established a passing score, verified by an official score report.
 - (F) A proficiency level of “novice-high” or above on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Inc. (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines or “0+” (zero plus) or above on the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Proficiency Descriptions, verified by an official score report.
 - (G) A score on a College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) examination in a language other than English administered by the College Board equal to or higher than the minimum score recommended by the American Council on Education for awarding credit for two semesters, verified by an official score report.
 - (H) Possession of a teaching credential from another state that authorizes instruction in a language other than English.
 - (I) Residence in a non-English speaking country or countries for twelve consecutive months at age 18 or older, verified by passports, work visas, letters from employers, or other documents.
 - (J) Successful completion of one academic year (over a single period) at age 14 or above at a school in which all instruction, except in the subject area of English, was delivered in a language other than English, verified by an official transcript or a letter from the school.
 - (K) Successful completion of two academic years between the ages of 10 and 14, inclusive, at a school in which all instruction, except in the subject area of English, was delivered in a language other than English, verified by an official transcript or a letter from the school.
 - (L) Initial arrival at age 12 or older in the United States after having spent the years from birth to age 12 in a non-English speaking country or countries, verified by a birth certificate, passport, entry visas, or other documents.
 - (M) Successful completion of three years of course work in a language other than English in grades seven through 12 in a public or private school with an average grade of B or better, verified by an official transcript or a letter from the school.



- (N) Achievement of a score on the Advanced Placement Examination in a language other than English offered by Educational Testing Service for which college credit or advanced standing is awarded, verified by either an official transcript or a letter from the registrar's or admission's office from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
- (O) Achievement on a college or university placement examination in a language other than English for which 1) a minimum of six semester academic units or the equivalent quarter units are awarded or 2) placement in an advanced level course, defined as no lower than the second year of a multi-year sequence, is given or 3) an exemption from a one year requirement is granted. This must be verified by either an official transcript or a letter from the registrar's or admission's office from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
- (P) Possession of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university as specified in Section 80457.
- (3) Completion of a Commission-approved California Teacher of English Learners (CTEL) program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation as provided in Education Code §44373(c), including verification of program completion as provided in Education Code §44227(b).
- (4) Submission of an application as specified in Education Code §44227(b) and fee(s) as specified in Section 80487(a)(1).
- (5) The holder of a Supplementary Authorization in either English as a Second Language (ESL) or Introductory ESL may use that document to earn a CLAD Certificate or English learner authorization. A Supplementary Authorization in ESL or Introductory ESL will remain valid as long as the holder's prerequisite teaching credential remains valid. A Supplementary Authorization in ESL or Introductory ESL authorizes instruction for English language development, as defined in Education Code Section 44253.2(a), at the levels and in the grades specified in Sections 80057.5 and 80089 as those sections existed on January 1, 1993. The requirements for earning a CLAD Certificate or English learner authorization for holders of the Supplementary Authorization in ESL or Introductory ESL include all of the following:
 - (A) Experience learning a second language as specified in Section 80015(a)(2).
 - (B) Completion of three semester units (or four quarter units) of coursework in the theories and methods of specially designed academic instruction delivered in English. The coursework must be applicable toward a bachelor's degree or a higher degree at a regionally accredited college or university and must be verified by an official transcript from such an institution. A grade of "C" or higher, "Pass," or "Credit" must be earned in each course. Coursework completed to satisfy this requirement must be verified by a Commission-approved CTEL program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation as provided in Education Code §§ 44373(c).
 - (C) Submission of an application as specified in Education Code §44227(b) and fee(s) as specified in Section 80487(a)(1).



- (6) The holder of a certificate of completion issued pursuant to Education Code §§ 44253.10 or 44253.11 may use that document to earn a CLAD Certificate or English learner authorization. The requirements for earning a CLAD Certificate or English learner authorization for holders of such a certificate of completion include all of the following:
- (A) Possession of a valid credential or permit as specified in Section 80015.2(a).
 - (B) Experience learning a second language as specified in Section 80015(a)(2).
 - (C) Completion of coursework as follows:
 - 1. Holders of a certificate of completion for specially designed academic instruction delivered in English (SDAIE) must complete nine semester units (or twelve quarter units) of upper-division/graduate coursework as described in subsection (D), except subsection (D)1.c.
 - 2. Holders of a certificate of completion for English language development (ELD) must complete nine semester units (or twelve quarter units) of upper-division/graduate coursework as described in subsection (D), except subsection (D)1.b.
 - 3. Holders of two certificates of completion, one for SDAIE and one for ELD must complete six semester units (or eight quarter units) of upper-division/graduate coursework as described in subsection (D), except subsections (D)1.b. and (D)1.c.
 - 4. Holders of a certificate of completion for both SDAIE and ELD must complete nine semester units (or twelve quarter units) of upper-division/graduate coursework as described in subsection (D), except subsections (D)1.b. and (D)1.c.
 - (D) Coursework completed to satisfy this requirement must be verified by a Commission-approved CTEL program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation, as provided in Education Code § 44373(c), and include the following:
 - 1. Methodology of bilingual instruction, instruction for English language development, and specially designed academic instruction delivered in English, including the following:
 - a. Theories and methods of bilingual education.
 - b. Theories and methods of instruction for English language development.
 - c. Theories and methods of specially designed academic instruction delivered in English.
 - d. Language and content area assessment.
 - 2. Culture and cultural diversity, including the following:
 - a. Nature and content of culture.
 - b. Crosscultural contact and interactions.
 - c. Cultural diversity in the United States and California.
 - (E) Submission of an application as specified in Education Code §44227(b) and fee(s) as specified in Section 80487(a)(1).



(a) By examination: The requirements for earning a bilingual authorization by examination include all of the requirements specified in subsections (1), (2), and (3) below:

- (1) Possession of a valid credential or permit as specified in Section 80015.2(a).
- (2) Completion of one of the requirements listed below in subsections (A) and (B). All test scores used to qualify for a bilingual authorization shall have the same period of validity for certification examinations as specified in §80071(b). The CSET: World Languages Examinations referred to in this subsection are those examinations described in Section 80015.3.
 - (A) Passage of Tests 1 through 3 of the CTEL Examinations and Test II or III depending on the specific language as detailed in Section 80015.3(c)(3), Test IV, and Test V of the CSET: World Languages Examinations.
 - (B) Passage of Test II or III depending on the specific language as detailed in Section 80015.3(c)(3), Test IV and Test V of the CSET: World Languages Examinations, and one of the following:
 1. Possession of a Language Development Specialist Certificate (pursuant to Article 3.5, commencing with Section 44475, of Chapter 3 of the Education Code as that article existed on December 31, 1992).
 2. Completion of the coursework or program described in Section 80015(a)(3).
 3. Possession of a CLAD Certificate or English learner authorization as described in Section 80015.
- (3) Submission of a complete application packet as specified in Section 80002 and fee(s) as specified in Section 80487(a)(1).
- (4) In subsections (A) and (B) above, the requirement to pass Test II or Test III of the CSET: World Languages depending on the specific language as detailed in Section 80015.3(c)(3) may be waived by either of the following:
 - (A) Possession of a valid, non-emergency California Single Subject or Standard Secondary Teaching Credential with a major in a language other than English.
 - (B) Possession of a three-year or higher degree from a foreign institution in which all instruction is delivered in a language other than English. The foreign institution must be equivalent in status to a regionally accredited institution of higher education in the United States.

(b) By program: The requirements for earning a bilingual authorization by program include all of the requirements specified in subsections (1), (2), and (3) below:

- (1) Possession of a valid credential or permit as specified in Section 80015.2(a).
- (2) Commission-approved bilingual authorization program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation as provided in Education Code § 44373(c), including verification of program completion as provided in Education Code § 44227(b).



- (3) Submission of a complete application packet as specified in Section 80002 and fee(s) as specified in Section 80487(a)(1).
- (c) By converting a Bilingual Certificate of Competence or BCLAD Certificate: Converting a Bilingual Certificate of Competence or a BCLAD Certificate to a bilingual authorization is not required. Unless used to apply for a bilingual authorization, a Bilingual Certificate of Competence or BCLAD Certificate shall remain valid as long as the holder's prerequisite credential or permit remains valid. The Bilingual Certificate of Competence and BCLAD Certificate authorizes the same services as the bilingual authorization as specified in Section 80015.2(c) and may be used in conjunction with any valid prerequisite credential or permit per Section 80015.2(d). The requirement for earning a bilingual authorization by converting a Bilingual Certificate or BCLAD Certificate is submission of a complete application packet as specified in Section 80002 and fee as specified in Section 80487(a)(1).
- (d) The provisions in Sections 80015.1(a)(2) and 80015.1(b)(2) may be combined toward the issuance of a bilingual authorization as determined by a Commission approved bilingual authorization program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation as provided in Education Code § 44373(c) and verified by the program as provided in Education Code § 44227(b).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 44253.9 and 44225(q), Education Code. Reference: Sections 44227(b), 44253.4, 44253.6, 44225(b), 44225(d) and 44373(c), Education Code.

§80071. Qualification by Examination for Issuance of Credential.

- (a) Every applicant who seeks to satisfy a credential, certificate, permit, or waiver requirement by examination must meet the passing score requirement(s) established by the Commission that were in effect at the time the examination was taken. A list of the adopted examinations and passing score requirements will be made available upon request to the Commission.
- (b) For each examination score used to satisfy a requirement for the issuance of a credential, certificate, permit, or waiver, there can be no more than ten years between (1) the date the score was earned and (2) the issuance date of the credential, certificate, permit, or waiver for which the examination score is used.
- (c) For purposes of this section, the Video Performance Assessment of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment, described in Education Code §44283, is considered an examination.
- (d) Once an examination score has been used to satisfy a California certification requirement, it may be used to satisfy a requirement of another certification document regardless of the ten-year limit described in subsection (b) if the score satisfies the passing score requirement for the new document.
- (e) The ten-year limit described in subsection (b) shall not apply to scores on examinations used to 1) verify knowledge of the Constitution of the United States, as specified in Education Code §44335; 2) grant credit by an institution of higher education; or 3) verify experience learning a second language required for the Crosscultural, Language and Academic



Development Certificate, as specified in Section 80015 of the Title 5 Regulations. The ten-year limit on scores described in subsection (b) shall not apply to any examination that is exempt from this requirement by statute or regulation. The ten-year limit on scores described in subsection (b) shall not apply to any examination that was discontinued for certification use and no longer administered prior to January 1, 2017.

Note: Authority cited: Section 44225(q), Education Code. Reference: Sections 44225(d), 44252, 44253.3, 44280, 44283, 44289 and 44335, Education Code.

