



# **CODED CORRESPONDENCE**

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**DATE:**

October 9, 2019

**NUMBER:**

19-08

**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: Period of Validity for all Commission-Approved California Performance Assessments**

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**Summary:**

Per Title 5 section 80071 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) the period of validity for all Commission-approved examinations is ten (10) years. The Commission-approved performance assessments are examinations that a candidate must pass prior to recommendation for a preliminary credential.

Therefore, Title 5 section 80071 also establishes the validity period of all Commission-approved California Performance Assessments including, at this time, the California Administrator Performance Assessment (CalAPA), the California Teaching Performance Assessment (CalTPA), edTPA and the Fresno Assessment of Student Teachers (FAST). New performance assessments approved by the Commission will also be held to this established ten-year validity period.

The performance assessment passing score must be used within ten (10) years as part of a recommendation for a preliminary teaching or services credential. If more than ten (10) years have elapsed since the passing score was earned, the individual will need to retake the current performance assessment and earn a score that satisfies the passing standard for the performance assessment at that time.

**Key Provisions:**

The approved amendments include the following changes:

For all current Commission-approved California Performance Assessments, including the CalAPA, CalTPA, edTPA and FAST, the recommendation for the credential must be submitted within ten (10) years of the passing date of the performance assessment.

**Important Date:**

The performance assessment period of validity became effective August 1, 2018.

**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...”*

Title 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.

**Sources:**

Education Code section 44225; Title 5 California Code of Regulations section 80071.

**References:**

**§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.

**Contact Information:**

Commission's Information Services Unit by email at [credentials@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:credentials@ctc.ca.gov) or by telephone at (916) 322-4974 Monday through Friday from 12 pm to 4 pm.