



## **CODED CORRESPONDENCE**

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**DATE:**

February 4, 2020

**NUMBER:**

20-02

**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: Changes to the Credential Requirements for Charter School Teachers Based  
on the Provisions of Assembly Bill (AB) 1505**

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**Summary:**

The provisions of Assembly Bill (AB) 1505 (Chap. 486, Stats. 2019) change the credential and professional fitness requirements of educators employed at charter schools. Previous law allowed for credentialing flexibility for charter school teachers who were teaching in non-core, non-college preparatory courses. AB 1505 removed that flexibility from the law and aligned charter school teacher credentialing requirements with those for all other public school teachers.

**Key Provisions:**

1. All Charter School Teachers are Subject to the Commission's Professional Fitness Requirements

By July 1, 2020, all teachers employed at charter schools are required to have their professional fitness evaluated by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission). This provision is inclusive to contracted educators, including those employed through virtual education services that offer instruction through online courses<sup>1</sup>. A professional fitness evaluation requires fingerprint clearance through the California Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and is required from every applicant prior to the Commission's

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<sup>1</sup> Educators located outside of California are required to complete the Commission's professional fitness requirements in order to serve as virtual educators in California classrooms.

issuance of any credential, permit, certificate, or waiver. Educators who hold current, valid Commission issued credentials, permits, or waivers have already undergone a professional fitness screening as part of their application process.

Educators who do not hold a valid Commission issued document, or who have let their documents lapse for 18 months or longer will need to verify professional fitness. Earning a [Certificate of Clearance](#) will satisfy professional fitness requirements for those educators who have not earned any documents from the Commission.

### **All Points Bulleting (APB)**

Pursuant to Education Code section 44237(k), the Commission issues an All Points Bulletin (APB) to private and public school employers that identifies credential holders who have had final adverse action taken against their credential. The provisions of AB 1505 allow for charter schools to obtain the APB. For information on how to begin receiving the APB, charter school employers should contact the Division of Professional Practices at [DPPinfo@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:DPPinfo@ctc.ca.gov).

## **2. Educators in Teaching Positions at Charter Schools are Required to Hold the Appropriate Credential Authorization for their Teaching Assignment**

This bill provides that teachers employed in charter schools are required to hold the Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document appropriate for the teacher's certificated assignment. This requirement includes teachers serving English learners and students with special needs. Any educator instructing children, regardless of the type of instruction, must hold the appropriate credential authorization(s) for the certificated assignment.

However, service assignments at charter schools are excluded from assignment monitoring. Examples of service assignments include Administrative, Pupil-Personnel, Teacher Librarian, and School Nurse Services positions. AB 1505 did not change the statutory requirements for certificated services assignments.

Information on the appropriate assignment of educators can be found in the [Assignment Resources](#) area of the Commission's Credential Information Guide (CIG) and the [Administrator's Assignment Manual](#). Access to these resources are password protected. Employers may access them using the following user name and password:

**User name:** cig2011

**Password:** ctguide

### **Educators Employed at Charter Schools During the 2019-20 School Year**

This bill includes provisions that allow educators already employed in non-core or non-college preparatory teaching assignments at charter schools during the 2019–20 school year up to five additional years to obtain the credential required for the teacher's certificated assignment. These educators must earn the appropriate credential for their assignment by July 1, 2025. Charter school teachers that are newly hired for their assignment in the 2020-21 school year (and beyond), or who maintain employment at the same charter school but are assigned to a

new teaching assignment, are required to hold the appropriate certification for their assignment.

Please note that while this provision allows teachers in the abovementioned scenario to stay in positions, these educators have not earned the appropriate credential authorizations for their positions. This provision does not correct the misassignment of these un-authorized educators, and such assignments will still be identified as misassignments.

### **Options for Emergency Credentials and Permits**

There are a number of assignment correction options available for public school assignments, including assignments at charter schools. These options include emergency documents, such as the [Provisional Internship Permit](#), [Short-Term Staff Permit](#), [Emergency Cross-cultural, Language and Academic Development \(CLAD\) permit](#), and [Variable Term Waivers](#). These documents allow qualified individuals to be legally authorized to serve in their teaching assignment while they are working towards completing the credential requirements for the appropriate teaching credential for the educator's assignment.

Additionally, [Local Assignment Options](#) (LAOs) and [General](#) and [Special](#) Education Limited Assignment Permits are available to legally authorize already fully credentialed teachers to teach in a content area or assignment that the teaching credential held by the educator does not authorize. More detailed information on the available correction options may be found in the following resources (see above for password):

- [Misassignment Correction Options](#)

### **3. Monitoring of Charter School Teaching Assignments**

The passage of Assembly Bill 1219 (Chap. Stats. 2019) also requires charter schools to participate in annual assignment monitoring. Detailed information regarding the provisions of this bill may be found in [Coded Correspondence 20-01](#).

#### **Important Dates:**

- AB 1505 becomes effective January 1, 2020.
- All teachers in charter schools are required to satisfy the Commission's professional fitness requirement's by July 1, 2020.
- New teachers hired to work at a charter school must be appropriately credentialed for the 2019-20 school year.
- Teachers employed by charter schools during the 2019–20 school year shall have until July 1, 2025, to obtain the certificate required for the teacher's certificated assignment.

#### **Background:**

Prior to the passage of AB 1505 (Chap. 486, Stats. 2019), charter schools were granted flexibility in assigning teachers to non-core curriculum classes. Additionally, charter school educators were not required to undergo the Commission's Professional Fitness evaluation.

**Sources:**

- [Coded Correspondence 20-01: Changes to Assignment Monitoring Based on the Provisions of Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1219](#)
- [Fingerprint Clearance Information \(CL-271\)](#)
- [Certificate of Clearance \(CL-900\)](#)
- [Administrator's Assignment Manual \(AAM\)](#)
- [Common Local Assignment Options](#)
- [Waiver Handbook](#)
- [General Education Teacher Correction Options](#)
- [Provisional Internship Permit \(CL-856\)](#)
- [Short-Term Staff Permit \(CL-858\)](#)

**References:**

Education Code sections 47604.5, 47605, 47605.4, 47605.6, 47607, 47607.3, 47607.5, 47605.9, 47607.2, 47607.8, 47632, and 47612.7

**Contact Information:**

The most direct method to receive a response to specific questions is by email to the Commission's Information Services Section at [credentials@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:credentials@ctc.ca.gov). Place key words indicating the nature of your question in the subject line to allow the Commission to direct the email to the appropriate staff.