



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

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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: Assembly Bill 988: Using California Teaching Experience to Clear the *RSG* Renewal Requirements for Special Education Teaching Credentials Earned Based on Out-of-State Preparation

Summary:

Assembly Bill (AB) 988 (Chap. 103, Stats. 2019) was signed by the Governor on July 19, 2019. The provisions of the bill became effective on January 1, 2020. This bill addresses requirements for out-of-state prepared education specialist teachers who have completed a special education preparation program out-of-state that is not directly comparable to a California Education Specialist specialty area. Individuals who are issued an Education Specialist credential based on completion of an out-of-state generalist, generic or cross-categorical program are issued one of the following specialty areas: Mild/Moderate, Moderate/Severe or Early Childhood Special Education. In addition to any other necessary renewal requirements, these individuals have the *RSG* renewal code listed on their Level I credential. The change effected by this bill will now allow individuals to use two or more years of special education teaching experience earned in California, while holding the preliminary credential, to satisfy the California specialty area equivalency requirement and clear the *RSG* renewal code.

Key Provisions:

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue a teaching credential to an out-of-state prepared applicant who satisfies specified requirements. For an applicant prepared to serve students with disabilities, one of the specified requirements is that the applicant has earned a valid corresponding special education teaching credential based upon

the out-of-state teacher preparation program. With respect to an Education Specialist credential, the Commission is required to determine the area of concentration based on the special education program completed out-of-state. When the applicant completes a generalist or cross-categorical program out-of-state, and does not hold an endorsement that aligns with one of the California specialty areas, then the applicant must choose **one** of the following specialty areas to be listed on their California Level 1 credential:

- Mild/Moderate Disabilities,
- Moderate/Severe Disabilities, or
- Early Childhood Special Education

In such cases, the out-of-state program is deemed non-comparable and in addition to any other renewal requirements, the Level 1 Education Specialist credential will list the *RSG* renewal requirement, which states the following:

“The holder must complete the equivalent of a Commission-approved preliminary program in the specialty area listed on this document.”

Educators can meet this requirement by verifying one of the following:

1. Two or more years of out-of-state teaching experience completed in the specialty area listed on the Level I credential.
2. Out-of-state student teaching completed in the specialty area listed on the Level I credential.
3. Completion of preliminary program equivalency, as verified by an institution with a Commission-approved program in the specialty area listed on the Level I credential.

AB 988 amended Education Code §44274.2 so that effective January 1, 2020, individuals now have a fourth option to satisfy the *RSG* renewal requirement:

4. Two or more years of special education teaching experience earned in California, completed in the specialty area listed on the Level I document.

This option is only applicable to individuals who completed a preparation program in a state other than California; this option is not available to individuals who completed a program in California or outside the United States.

Effective January 1, 2020, an out-of-state prepared applicant whose California Level I Education Specialist credential was issued based upon completion of a generic program with the *RSG* renewal code may submit evidence of two or more years of full-time special education teaching experience in California, in the specialty area listed on the Level I credential. This experience will clear the *RSG* renewal requirement only. The credential holder will still be held to any additional renewal requirements such as Basic Skills, English Learner Authorization, and/or Induction if completion of such requirements is not verified with the initial application for certification.

For applicants submitting evidence of two or more years of teaching experience in California, the experience may have been completed prior to January 1, 2020, but the application to clear RSG cannot be submitted until 1/1/2020 or later. Further, the effective date of a clear credential based on this provision cannot be prior to 1/1/2020. For verification of experience, the Commission will require an original letter on official letterhead of the district(s) where the teacher was employed, signed by the superintendent, assistant superintendent or director of personnel or human resources. The letter must explicitly state that the teaching experience was full-time and it must also specifically indicate the specialty area in which the service was performed.

Important Dates:

January 1, 2020 - Effective date of the provisions of AB 988

Sources:

Education Code §44274.2

References:

[Education Specialist Instruction Credential Requirements for Individuals Prepared Out-of-State \(CL-808\)](#)

Contact Information:

Questions regarding credential requirements may be directed to the Commission's Information Services Unit by telephone at (916) 322-4974 or by live chat on the Commission's website, Monday through Friday from 12:00 pm to 4:00pm. The Information Services Unit can also be reached by email at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.