



Options for Meeting the Basic Skills Requirement January 11, 2021

There are multiple pathways for individuals seeking a teaching credential to meet the state's basic skills requirement. Individuals may satisfy this requirement by one of the methods identified below. Additional details on these options may be found in the Commission's [Basic Skills Leaflet](#).

1. Pass the CBEST

To pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST), one must obtain a minimum scaled score of 41 in each of the three sections—reading, writing, and mathematics. However, a score as low as 37 on an individual section is acceptable if the total scaled score is at least 123. Individuals only need to pass CBEST; CBEST passing scores remain valid indefinitely for all credential and employment purposes.

2. Pass the CSET: Multiple Subjects Plus Writing Skills Examination

Individuals may take and pass the Writing Skills examination (test #142) as part of the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET): Multiple Subjects Examination (subtests #101, #214, & #103) to meet the basic skills requirement.

3. Pass the CSU Early Assessment Program or the CSU Placement Examinations

Passing scores on the California State University (CSU) Early Assessment Program (EAP) (English and Mathematics sections) or the CSU Placement Examinations (English Placement Test [EPT] and Entry Level Mathematics [ELM]) may be used to meet the basic skills requirement. Note that the EAP is no longer offered by CSUs and candidates who have previously taken the assessments must contact their institution for score reports.

4. Achieve Qualifying Score on the SAT or ACT

Previously, individuals who earned a score of 500 or higher on the Critical Reading (previously Verbal) section of the SAT exam combined with a score of 550 or higher on the SAT Mathematics exam were determined to have met the basic skills requirement. A restructuring of the SAT Suite of Assessments

has adjusted the qualifying scores on the revised Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics examinations required to meet the basic skills requirement. The College Board has identified scores on the restructured examinations that are equivalent to the scores earned on earlier versions. An individual having earned a score of 22 or higher on the ACT English exam combined with a score of 23 or higher on the ACT Mathematics exam is determined to have met the basic skills requirement.

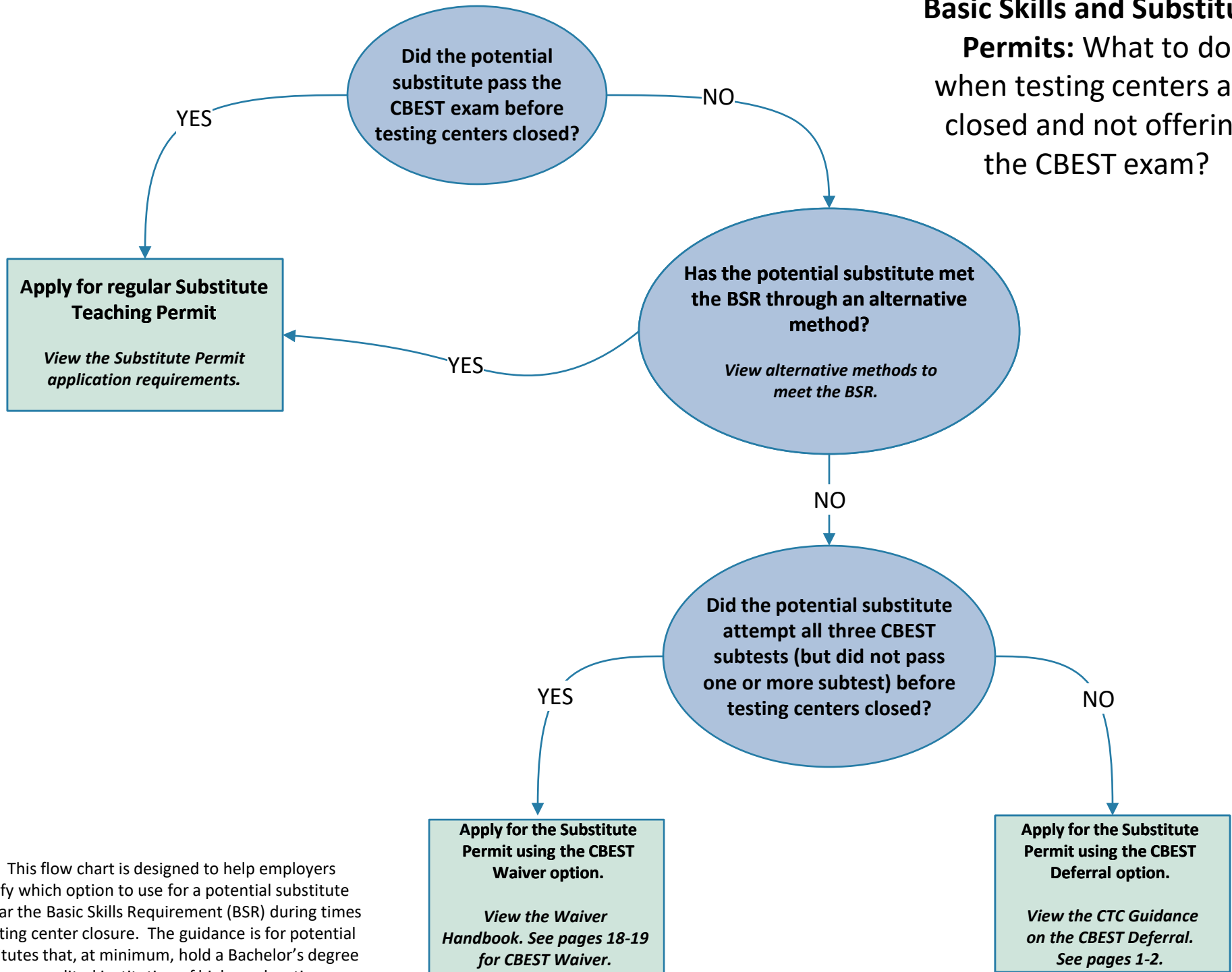
5. College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations

Students who achieve a score of 3 or higher on the College Board AP English exam and AP Calculus or AP Statistics exam may use these exam scores to meet the basic skills requirement.

6. Pass a Basic Skills Examination from Another State

For educators credentialed in another state, the Commission will accept passage of basic skills examinations from other states as meeting California's basic skills requirement. A photocopy of the score report or letter from the testing agency verifying passage of the examination must be submitted with the application packet.

Basic Skills and Substitute Permits: What to do when testing centers are closed and not offering the CBEST exam?



Note: This flow chart is designed to help employers identify which option to use for a potential substitute to clear the Basic Skills Requirement (BSR) during times of testing center closure. The guidance is for potential substitutes that, at minimum, hold a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.