



CREDENTIAL INFORMATION ALERT

DATE: February 22, 2007

NUMBER: 07-02

SUBJECT: Basic Skills Requirement

Senate Bill SB 1209 (Chapter 517, Statutes of 2006) was signed by the Governor on September 28, 2006. One of the changes was to add five new options, in addition to passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST), to meet the basic skills requirement. The changes were discussed in Coded Correspondence 06-0021 and the specific acceptance of an out-of state basic skills examination was in Coded Correspondence 06-0026 and 06-0028.

Commission staff has received questions concerning the new option. This Credential Information Alert will clarify the issues raised.

Five New Options Apply to All Credential Types

All five new options (out-of-state basic skills examination and, when available, CSET: Multiple Subjects Plus Writing Skills, ACT Plus Writing examination, the GRE [Graduate Record] examination; and SAT Reasoning examination) may be used to satisfy the basic skills requirement for all types of documents requiring that basic skills be met. This includes pupil personnel services, administrative services, as well as teaching permits and waivers regardless if the requirements to earn the credential were completed in California, out-of-state, or outside the United States. For example, an individual passed the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) in Connecticut. This examination satisfies Connecticut's basic skills examination requirement. If the individual applies for a Provisional Internship Permit in California, the basic skills requirement has been met.

Passage of the revised CSET: Multiple Subjects examination (CSET: Multiple Subjects Plus Writing Skills) may meet the basic skills requirement for all types of documents. However, passage of this examination will be used most likely by multiple subject credential applicants. This option will be available by July 1, 2007.

Additional information on the ACT Plus Writing examination, the GRE examination, and the SAT Reasoning examination will be distributed when it is available following the setting of passing scores by the Superintendent of Public Instruction by July 31, 2007.

Out-of-State Basic Skills Examination

There is no recency requirement for the date when the out-of-state examination was passed. A photocopy of the score report/letter from the state education agency verifying a passing score must be

submitted with the application packet. Because minimum passing scores on different examinations administered out of state may vary over time, a passing score report will be required.

The Commission has prepared a guide on out-of-state basic skills examinations that includes the examination name and testing agency. The guide may be found on the Credential Information Guide (CIG) in the CBEST section in the Exams section or directly at the following link: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/cig/EXAMS/exams.html#CBEST>. Remember that this is a guide and staff will keep it as accurate as possible but other states are not required to inform the Commission when they change their basic skills requirement. If there is not information listed for a state, that does not necessarily mean they do not have a basic skills examination. Staff is continuing to research this information and changes will be made to the chart as it becomes available.

To verify completion of the basic skills requirement, the Commission cannot accept simply verification of an out-of-state credential from a state with a basic skills examination. Each state has established their basic skills examinations at different times. For example, California did not have a basic skills examination until February 1983. Other states just established an examination in the last year or two. We are researching how we might accept only the out-of-state document. Information will be distributed at a later date if this option is available.

Many states also require their teachers to complete a subject matter examination. This is usually in addition to a basic skills requirement. Passage of a subject matter examination does not meet the basic skills requirement of proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics unless a basic skill assessment is included within the subject matter examination. Our review of other states has not found this to be true for any subject matter examination.

The basic skills examination does not need to have been passed in the state where the teacher's credential was issued. For example, if an individual passes the General Knowledge Test, which is Florida's basic skills examination, but receives a credential in Arizona which does not have a basic skills examination, the Commission may accept passage of the General Knowledge Test completed in Florida as meeting the basic skills requirement even if the individual did not earn a Florida credential.

Verifying Basic Skills for Out-of-State Prepared Teachers

Employing agencies may accept an out-of-state basic skills examination for holders of preliminary multiple subject, single subject, and education specialist credentials for teachers who must complete the basic skills examination within the first year of validity of the five-year preliminary credential. A photocopy of the score report/letter from the state testing company verifying a passing score must be kept on file by the employing agency and submitted with the application packet for the clear credential.

Resources

Basic Skills Requirement Information Leaflet: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl667.pdf>

Coded Correspondence 06-0021: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/060021/060021.pdf>

Coded Correspondence 06-0026: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/060028/060028.pdf>

Coded Correspondence 06-0028: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/060028/060028.pdf>

Contacts/Questions

Information Services

Telephone - (888) 921-2682 (toll free) or (916) 445-7254 (1:00 to 4:45 pm)

Email - credentials@ctc.ca.gov