



Credential Information Alert

DATE: March 11, 2011

NUMBER: 11-04

SUBJECT: Subject Matter Competence for Education Specialist Instruction Credentials

Summary:

The recently updated *Education Specialist Instruction Teaching and Other Related Services Credential Program Standards* and amendments to Title 5 Regulations require verification of subject matter competence in a No Child Left Behind (NCLB) core academic subject area. This Credential Information Alert (CIA) addresses the subject matter competence requirement for Education Specialist Instruction Credentials, specifically as related to individuals enrolled in Level I programs (student teaching and intern) who transition to preliminary programs.

Key Provisions:

Subject Matter Competence

Commission-approved Education Specialist Instruction Credential Programs are responsible for verifying that an individual has satisfied the appropriate subject matter competence requirement before assuming daily whole class instructional responsibilities or becoming the teacher of record in a K-12 setting. Individuals enrolled in Education Specialist Instruction Credential Programs that lead to a *preliminary* credential are required to verify subject matter competence in an NCLB core academic subject area. The NCLB core academic subject areas are elementary level, English, economics, reading/language arts, mathematics, history, science, arts, geography, civics/government and foreign language which may be verified in California by passing the appropriate examinations or obtaining a subject matter letter for:

- ❖ Art
- ❖ English
- ❖ World Languages/Languages Other Than English
- ❖ Mathematics, including Foundational-Level Mathematics
- ❖ Music
- ❖ Science, including Foundational-Level General Science and Specialized Science
- ❖ Social Science
- ❖ General Subjects by examination only

Individuals enrolled in programs that lead to a *Level I* credential may satisfy the subject matter competence requirement in any California statutory subject area for single or multiple subject credentials.

Individuals who hold California general education teaching credentials (Ryan, General, and Standard) issued on the basis of a bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally-accredited college or university and completion of a teacher preparation program that included student teaching are exempt from the subject matter competence requirement associated with Level I and preliminary programs. There are two exceptions: 1) out-of-state or out-of-country prepared teachers who hold general education preliminary teaching credentials that list subject matter competence as a renewal requirement; and 2) individuals seeking an Education Specialist Instruction Credential in Early Childhood Special Education.

Transition from Level I to Preliminary Program

Individuals enrolled in programs that lead to the issuance of Level I credentials are entitled to complete the program they started as long as they are admitted by Fall 2011 and the program is completed by January 31, 2013 (reference Coded Correspondence 10-12 in the References section). Individuals also have the option of transitioning from a Level I to a Preliminary program if allowed by an approved program sponsor. The issues described below must be considered by the individual and the approved program sponsor prior to such a transition.

NCLB Core Academic Subject Areas

Program sponsors with an approved Preliminary Education Specialist Program must verify that an individual has satisfied subject matter competence in an NCLB core academic subject area before allowing the transition to the preliminary program. For example, an individual who was admitted to a program or was issued an intern credential that leads to a Level I credential on the basis of the CSET: Health Science examination cannot transition to a preliminary program until he/she verifies subject-matter competence in an NCLB core academic subject area. Programs must work closely with individuals who wish to transition to explain that additional testing or completion of a subject matter program may be required before they can be admitted to the preliminary program.

Intern Credentials

An individual who holds an intern credential leading to a Level I credential may transition to a program that leads to a preliminary credential if the program sponsor has received Commission approval for a preliminary program, agrees to the transition, and verifies the individual's satisfaction of subject matter competence in an NCLB core academic subject area. Submission of an application to transition from one intern program to another program is not necessary; an individual may continue to serve on the original intern credential and the program sponsor may recommend for the preliminary credential upon program completion.

However, except for the Moderate/Severe Disabilities and Early Childhood Special Education authorizations, intern credentials for individuals enrolled in programs leading to a Level I credential do not include an authorization for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). An individual who holds an intern credential that leads to a Level I credential serving students needing services in the area of ASD who chooses to transition to an intern program that leads to a preliminary credential will need to obtain a new intern credential. In this situation, the program sponsor must notify the Commission that the individual has withdrawn from the Level I intern program. A paper application with a full processing fee must be submitted to reactivate the intern credential as one that leads to a preliminary credential. The new intern credential that will lead to the issuance of a preliminary credential will be issued with the ASD authorization. If an individual is not providing services in the area of autism, the new intern credential does not have to be obtained.

Additional information explaining how to reactivate an intern credential after an individual withdraws from a program, including an explanation of how the new credential will be dated, is available in Credential Information Alert (CIA) 10-17. A link to CIA 10-17 is provided in the References section.

Important Dates:

June 26, 2010 – Effective date for the amended Title 5 regulations pertaining to Education Specialist Instruction Credentials for California-prepared individuals

Fall 2011 – Last date to enroll candidates in Level I programs

January 31, 2013 – Date by which Level I programs must be completed

Background:

The Commission approved standards for special education preliminary and clear teaching credentials, clear services credentials, and added authorizations in late 2008 and early 2009. The associated Title 5 regulations were amended in 2010 to implement the new program standards. The amended Title 5 regulations became effective on June 26, 2010.

Source:

5 California Code of Regulations sections 80048.3, 80048.4, 80048.8, and 80048.8.1

References:

Coded Correspondence 10-12 – *Approval of Title 5 Regulations Pertaining to Special Education Teaching Credential Requirements*: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2010/1012.pdf>

Credential Information Alert 10-17 – *Reactivation of Intern Credentials*:
http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/cig/alerts/2010_alerts/1017.pdf

Education Specialist Teaching and Other Related Services Credential Program Standards:
<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/Special-Education-Standards.pdf>

Contact Information:

Email the Commission’s Information Services Unit at credentials@ctc.ca.gov, or call (888) 921-2682 from 12:00 noon to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.