



Credential Information Alert

DATE: October 8, 2013

NUMBER: 13-11

SUBJECT: Sunset Date for Alternative Route to Provide Education Services to Students With Autism

Summary:

This Credential Information Alert (CIA) serves as a reminder of the recent sunset date for a local assignment option. Education Code (EC) §44265.1 allowed a local educational agency the flexibility to assign a teacher who holds a Level I or Level II Education Specialist Credential, or a previously issued credential, that authorizes him or her to provide instruction to individuals with mild and moderate disabilities to provide instruction to pupils with autism, if the teacher consents to the assignment and satisfies certain criteria, as determined by the local educational agency. The sunset date for this local assignment option was October 1, 2013.

Key Provisions:

Under established criteria in EC section 44265.1, an employing agency had the option to legally authorize special education instructional services to students with autism/autism spectrum disorders for credential holders authorized to serve students with mild and moderate disabilities. An educator assigned under this EC option is not authorized to continue serving this population of students beyond the sunset date of October 1, 2013 unless the educator holds an appropriate credential, authorization, permit, or waiver to serve students with autism.

The use of this local assignment option in the Education Code was voluntary by an employing agency and did not result in the issuance of a credential or authorization by the Commission. If an employing agency legally authorized a teacher to temporarily provide instructional services to this student population prior to full preparation based on the local assignment option in statute through October 1, 2013, the teacher is not then 'grandfathered' into that authorization level.

Depending on employment goals, an educator providing special education instructional services to this student population has the option of earning an Added Authorization in Special Education (AASE) in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) or a full additional specialty area in Moderate/Severe Disabilities. If educators require additional time to complete the requirements for one of these authorizations after October 1, 2013, the employing agency has the option of the Special Education Limited Assignment Permit (SELAP) in Moderate/Severe Disabilities or a Variable-Term Waiver for an AASE in ASD.

The SELAP and Variable Term Waiver are 'bridge documents' while the teacher makes progress on the requirements to earn an appropriate authorization. An educator may also contact approved program providers for the AASE in ASD regarding the possibility of an equivalency evaluation of



prior coursework, professional development, and experience for the program standards. Information on the requirements for both the SELAP and AASE may be found in the *References* section.

Background:

Assembly Bill 2302 (Chap. 41, Stats. 2008) authorized local education agencies to use the local assignment option process to assign special education teachers with a Level I Education Specialist Credential in mild/moderate disabilities to provide special education instructional services to pupils with autism. AB 2160 (Chap. 134, Stats. 2010) extended the sunset date on this alternate route from August 1, 2011 to October 1, 2013.

The purpose of these bills was to provide a local assignment option for employing agencies to temporarily address the shortage of special education teachers that are fully prepared and authorized to provide instruction to students with autism. This limited local assignment option was provided as a temporary measure by the Legislature to allow time for these educators to complete additional preparation in consistent, evidence-based educational services to support this student population.

Important Dates:

October 1, 2013 – Sunset date for Alternative Route in EC section 44265.1

Sources:

Education Code section 44265.1 and Title 5 section 80047.4

References:

Coded Correspondence 08-10 and Coded Correspondence 10-15 Alternative Route to Provide Special Education Services to Students With Autism:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2008/0810.pdf>

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2010/1015.pdf>

Special Education Limited Assignment Permit (SELAP) Information Leaflet:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl889.pdf>

Added Authorization in Special Education (AASE) Information Leaflet:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl890.pdf>

Commission-approved AASE programs: http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC_apm/ESAA_asd.php

Special Education Authorizations Chart (*rev. 12/2011*):

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/CREDS/special-education-chart.pdf>

Contact Information:

For questions concerning the requirements for the SELAP or AASE, please contact the Commission's Information Services Unit at (916) 322-4974, Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 4:30 pm or by email at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.



For questions about appropriate authorization and assignment please contact the Commission's Assignment Monitoring Program by email at cawassignments@ctc.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 322-5038 (voice mail line).