



CREDENTIAL INFORMATION ALERT

DATE:
June 30, 2022

NUMBER:
22-09

SUBJECT: SPECIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT UPDATES FOR OUT OF STATE AND OUT OF COUNTRY APPLICANTS

Summary:

At the April 2022 Commission meeting, the Commissioners approved a regulatory package regarding changes to the Education Specialist Credential. The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the package and several changes to the Education Specialist Credential will go into effect on July 1, 2022. This CIA covers changes to the requirements for individuals prepared outside California to earn the Education Specialist credential.

Key Provisions:

Effective July 1, 2022, the authorizations available for the Education Specialist Instruction Credential will now include the following authorizations which will be listed in the system by the title:

- Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN)
- Extensive Support Needs (ESN)
- Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH)
- Visual Impairments (VI)
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

Individuals trained outside California were previously issued Level I or Clear level document when submitting their initial credential application. The updated regulations have brought the out of state and out of country requirements further in alignment with the California structure and individuals will now receive a Preliminary or Clear, ending the initial issuance of Level I credentials.

Prior to these adopted regulations, individuals prepared outside California who had a generic special education authorization were required to select an authorization in Mild/Moderate,

Moderate/Severe, or Early Childhood Special Education and had to complete an equivalent preliminary program prior to issuance of the clear. The updated requirements no longer include the completion of this equivalent preliminary program. As the new authorizations are not as restrictive in scope as the previous iterations, individuals who apply based on training outside California must request an authorization in Mild to Moderate Support Needs, Extensive Support Needs or Early Childhood Special Education and will not be required to complete a preliminary program.

Preliminary Requirements for Applicants Trained Outside the United States

1. [Foreign transcript evaluation](#) showing completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a college or university that has been deemed to be equivalent to a regionally-accredited institution in the United States.
2. [Foreign transcript evaluation](#) showing completion of a professional preparation program in special education, consisting of a minimum of 24 semester units, including completion of a supervised field study, taken at a college or university that has been deemed to be equivalent to a regionally-accredited college or university in the United States.
3. Issued or eligible for a comparable teaching credential earned in a country other than the United States. The credential does not have to be valid at the time of application.
4. Submission of Application Form 41-4.

Preliminary Requirements for Applicants With At Least 2 Years of Teaching Experience in a State Outside California.

1. Verification of two years of full-time special education teaching experience earned in a state or U.S. territory other than California.
2. Satisfactory performance evaluations.
3. Completion of a teacher preparation program in special education taken at a regionally accredited institution of higher education or a state-approved teacher preparation program offered by a local educational agency.
4. A professional level special education teaching credential issued by another state or U.S. territory.
 - a. Individuals with a generic special education authorizations may apply for an authorization in Mild to Moderate Support Needs, Extensive Support Needs, or Early Childhood Special Education.
5. A baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
6. Submission of application form 41-4.
7. Meet the basic skills requirement.
 - a. Individuals who have not met the basic skills requirement may be issued a preliminary document but will have 1 year in which to meet basic skills or the credential shall become invalid.

Preliminary Requirements for Applicants With Less Than 2 Years of Teaching Experience in a State Outside California.

1. A professional level special education teaching credential issued by another state or U.S. territory.
 - a. Individuals with generic special education authorizations may apply for an authorization in Mild to Moderate Support Needs, Extensive Support Needs, or Early Childhood Special Education.
2. Completion of a teacher preparation program in special education taken at a regionally accredited institution of higher education or a state-approved teacher preparation program offered by a local educational agency.
3. A baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
4. Submission of application form 41-4.
5. Meet the basic skills requirement.
 - a. Individuals who have not met the basic skills requirement may be issued a preliminary document but will have 1 year in which to meet basic skills or the credential shall become invalid.

The requirements to earn the Clear for the routes included above has not changed from previous regulations. Further details on earning the Clear, and additional clarification of the Preliminary requirements, can be found at the Information Leaflet linked in the References section.

Important Dates:

The new requirements will be effective beginning July 1, 2022.

Sources:

Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations §80048.3.1

Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations §80048.3.2

References:

CIA 22-06 – Education Specialist – Assignments

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/credentials/alerts/2022/cia-22-06.pdf>

CIA 22-07 – Education Specialist – Bridge Authorizations

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/credentials/alerts/2022/cia-22-07.pdf>

CIA 22-08 – Education Specialist – Online Submissions

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/credentials/alerts/2022/cia-22-08.pdf>

Contact Information:

Credential questions can be directed to the Commission’s Information Services Unit at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.