

# Foundations of Special Education Certification in California

*November 20, 2012*



# Topics

- ◆ History of Special Education Credentials
- ◆ Current Special Education Credential and Authorization Structure
- ◆ Serving Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ◆ Student Populations and Service Delivery in California
- ◆ Career Ladder – Addressing Staffing Shortages and Employment Options



# Historical Overview of Special Education Credentials

General Teaching Credentials

Standard Teaching Credentials

Ryan Specialist Instruction Credentials

Education Specialist Teaching Credentials



Added Authorizations in Special Education



# General and Standard Special Education Credentials

## *General Credentials*

- ◆ Effective prior - 1961
- ◆ Special education authorization-Special Secondary; *or*
- ◆ Credential to Teach Exceptional Children that also required holding a general education teaching credential

## *Standard Credentials*

- ◆ Effective post 1961
- ◆ Standard general education credential with specialization majors and minors for specific disability areas
- ◆ Standard Restricted Credentials in Special Education



# Ryan Specialist Instruction and Education Specialist Credentials

## *Ryan Specialist*

- ◆ Effective 1971
- ◆ Distinct advanced level certification for special education in broad specialty areas
- ◆ Required holding a prerequisite general education teaching credential

## *Education Specialist*

- ◆ Effective 1997
- ◆ Distinct initial level certification for special education in broad specialty areas
- ◆ Does ***not*** require holding a prerequisite general education teaching credential



# Ryan Specialist Instruction and Education Specialist Credentials

## *Ryan Specialist*

- ◆ One-tier advanced credential
- ◆ No longer initially issued; renewals only
- ◆ Specialty areas: Learning, Severely, Communication, Physically, and Visually Handicapped (LH, SH, CH, PH, VH)

## *Education Specialist*

- ◆ Two-tier initial credential
- ◆ Level I & Level II (1997)  
New specialty areas; embedded resource specialist preparation
- ◆ Preliminary & Clear (2010)  
Embedded resource specialist and autism preparation; required completion of Clear Induction program



# Common General Education and Special Education Program Components (1997 and 2010)

- ◆ Subject Matter (*not required for Early Childhood Special Education*)
- ◆ Teaching Reading/Language Arts (2008)
- ◆ English Learner Authorization (2007)
- ◆ Health Education
- ◆ Technology (general and assistive)
- ◆ Passage of RICA (*not required for Early Childhood Special Education*)



# English Learner (EL) Authorization

- ◆ Included in California Education Specialist programs as of July 1, 2007
- ◆ Provide English Language Development (ELD) in grades 12 and below
- ◆ Provide Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) in grade level and specialty subject area of Education Specialist Credential





# Preliminary and Clear (2010)

- ◆ Education Specialist continues to be a two-level credential
- ◆ Candidate may transition from Level I to Preliminary with program sponsor approval
- ◆ Candidate has the right to complete the program started within transition dates established



# Subject-Matter Competence Change (2010)

- ◆ Aligned with No Child Left Behind
- ◆ Art, English, foreign language, mathematics, music, science, and social science (*exam or approved program*)
- ◆ Elementary subject matter (*exam only*)

***Only for New Preliminary***



# Education Specialist Teaching Credential Structure (2010)

Content Specialty Area	Entry Certification	Advanced Certification
Mild/Moderate	Preliminary MM	Clear Teaching Credential
Moderate/Severe	Preliminary MS	
Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing	Preliminary DHH	
Language and Academic Development	Preliminary LAD	
Visual Impairment	Preliminary VI	
Physical Impairment	Preliminary PHI	
Early Childhood Special Education	Preliminary ECSE	



# Federal Disability Categories

- ◆ Autism
- ◆ Deaf-Blindness
- ◆ Deafness
- ◆ Hearing Impairment
- ◆ Emotional Disturbance
- ◆ Intellectual Disabilities  
(*Mental Retardation*)
- ◆ Multiple Disabilities
- ◆ Orthopedic Impairment
- ◆ Other Health Impairment
- ◆ Specific Learning Disability
- ◆ Speech or Language Impairment
- ◆ Traumatic Brain Injury
- ◆ Visual Impairment including Blindness



# Autism Spectrum Disorders Authorization

- ◆ **Level I/Level II** credentials (1997) – Embedded preparation for autism only in Moderate/Severe and the Early Childhood Special Education specialty areas
- ◆ **Preliminary/Clear** credentials (2010) — Embedded preparation for autism in all seven specialty areas; all specialty areas authorize teaching students on the autism spectrum



# Additional ASD Authorizations

- ◆ Added Authorization in Special Education (AASE) in ASD may be added to any special education credential that does not already authorize teaching students on the autism spectrum
- ◆ ECSE Added Authorization (*Birth to Pre-K Only*)
- ◆ Special Education Limited Assignment Permit (SELAP), Provisional Internship Permit (PIP), Short-Term Staff Permit (STSP), and Variable Term Waiver
  - Moderate/Severe or ECSE



# Special Education Services Credentials and Authorizations

- ◆ Clinical or Rehabilitative and Speech-Language Pathology Services (SLP)
  - Language, Speech, and Hearing
  - Orientation and Mobility
  - Audiology
  - Special Class Authorization (SCA)\*

\* Teaching authorization 

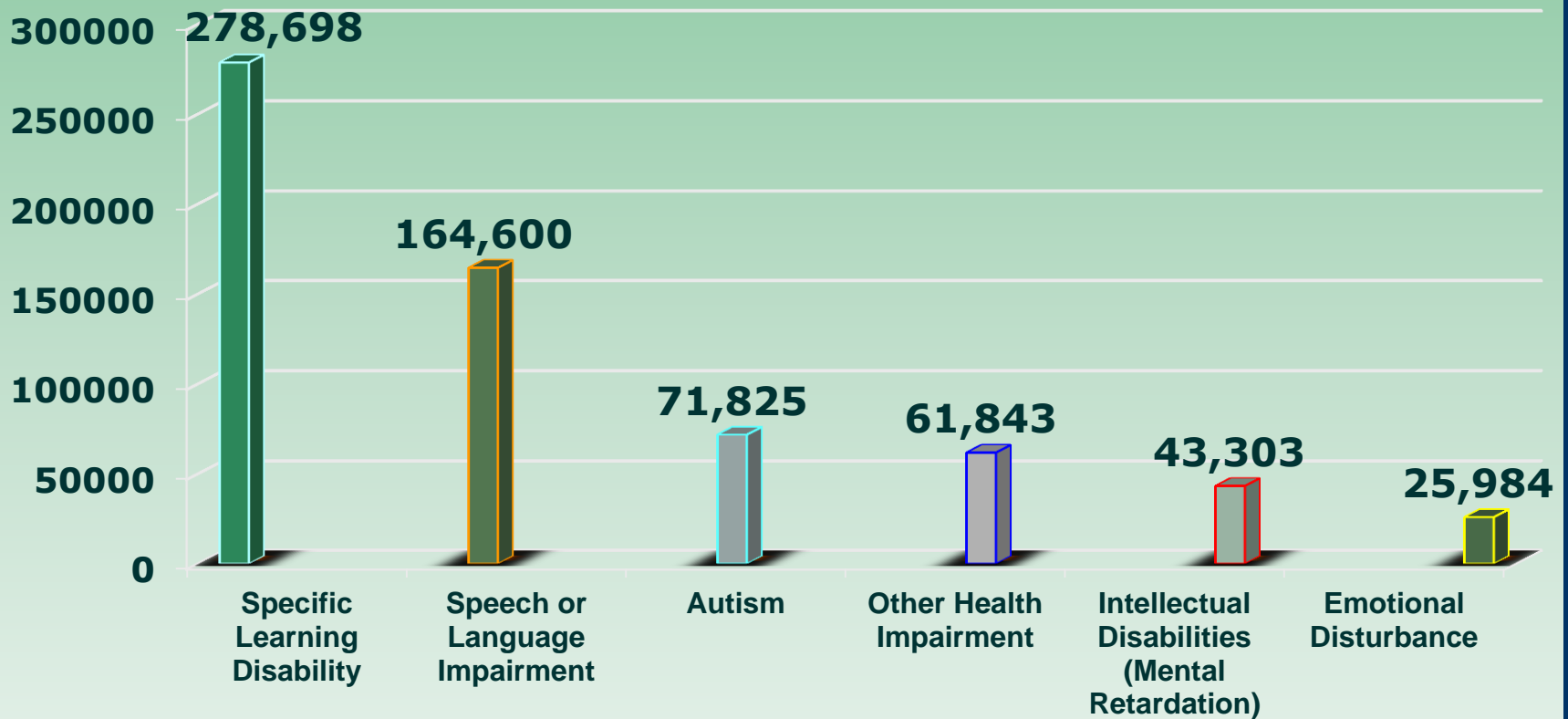
# SLP Holds Additional SCA

- ◆ Authorizes providing **instructional** services to students with special needs in the area of speech and language impairment and autism
- ◆ Clear SCA includes completion of:
  - subject-matter competence
  - passage of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA), and
  - English learner content





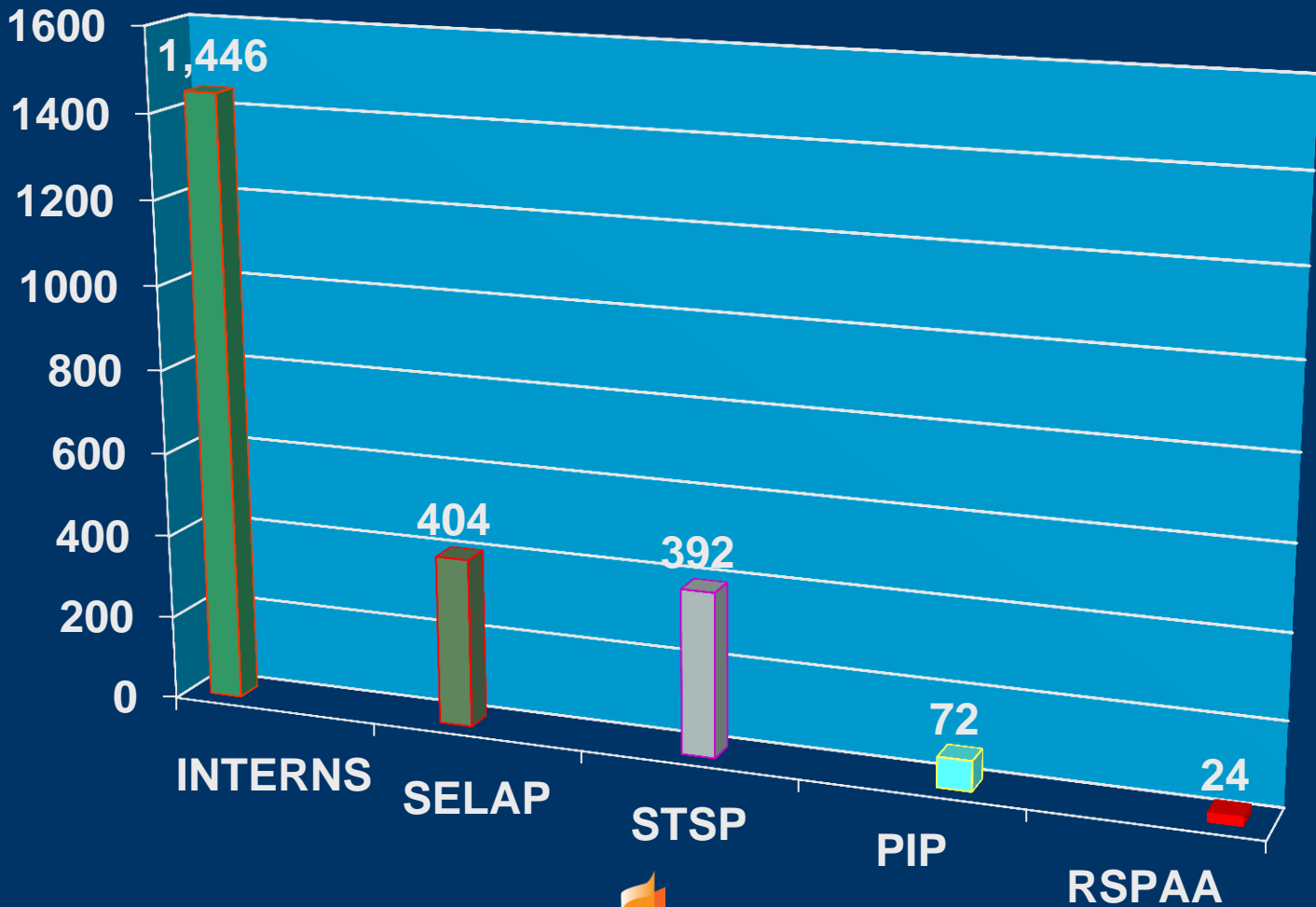
# Special Education Student Data Top Six Disability Categories (2011-2012)\*



\* California Department of Education – DataQuest state level data 11-20-12



# Special Educators in the Pipeline Intern and Permit Data (2010-11)



# Special Education Services

Appropriate services and placement in Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for students with special needs determined by teams that create

- ◆ Individual Education Program (IEP)
- ◆ Individual Family Service Program (IFSP)
- ◆ Individual Transition Plan (ITP)



# Special Education Delivered Across Full Continuum of Options

- ◆ Self-contained special education classroom at the elementary and secondary level
- ◆ Departmentalized special education classroom within content area primarily at secondary level
- ◆ Resource Specialist Instruction Program
- ◆ Inclusive Settings
- ◆ Collaborative Settings
- ◆ Consultative Services
- ◆ Special Schools
- ◆ Non-Public Schools or Agencies (NPS/NPA)
- ◆ Home/Hospital



# Determination of Appropriate Services

- ◆ IEP determines the student's needs and the rationale for the particular services and placement of the student
- ◆ Determination of appropriate service delivery models does not fall within the authority of the Commission
- ◆ Broad specialty area authorizations encompass preparation for serving a variety of specific disability categories



# Special Education Student Placement

## Title 5 §80046.5

*Credential and added authorization holders who are authorized to serve students through age 22 with disabilities must possess a credential or added authorization that authorizes teaching the primary disability of the students within the special education setting as determined by the program placement recommendation contained within the Individualized Education Program, Individualized Family Service Program, and/or Individualized Transition Plan*

**No Majority Rule**



# Low Incidence Disability Areas

- ◆ Education Code §44265.5
- ◆ Statutory requirement that specific low incidence disability areas must be served by an appropriately authorized educator
- ◆ Visual Impairment (VI), Orthopedic Impairment (OI), and Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH)



# Special Education Certification Ladder

*For Fully Credentialed Special Education Teachers*

Local Teaching Assignment Option

Autism only  
No document issued  
Sunsets Fall 2013

Special Education Limited Assignment Permit (SELAP)

Issued yearly for a total of three years per specialty area  
Requirements must be met for renewal  
Issued in all full specialty areas

Added Authorization in Special Education (AASE)

Valid as long as prerequisite is valid  
Completion of approved program  
Issued in specific areas within full specialty area





# Local Teaching Assignment Option for Autism

- ◆ Additional flexibility when assigning individuals to provide instruction to special needs students in the area of autism
- ◆ EC §44265.1 (sunsets 10/2013)
  - instructional services to students with autism within grade level of prerequisite credential



# Education Code §44265.1

## Who?

Holders of credentials authorizing instruction for mild/moderate areas

## How?

Teacher consent and verification of either

1. Three semester unit course in autism OR
2. One year of experience prior to 9/1/07 serving students with autism



# Special Education Limited Assignment Permit (SELAP)

## Purpose

- ◆ Bridge to allow time to complete requirements for either Added Authorizations in Special Education (AASE) or full specialty area
- ◆ Ensures appropriate assignments and places teacher on credential path
- ◆ Available 7/3/2009



# SELAP

- ◆ Authorizes assignment outside of the specialty area of valid prerequisite special education credential
- ◆ Issued in all current Education Specialist specialty areas
- ◆ Three semester units or one year experience in specialty area requested for initial issuance



# Added Authorizations in Special Education (AASE)

## Purpose

- ◆ Flexibility to assign teachers to serve students in more than one specialty area
- ◆ Allows teachers to expand disability areas authorized without completing full specialty area program
- ◆ Available 7/3/2009



# AASE

## ◆ Six Specific Disability Areas (2009)

- Autism spectrum disorders
- Deaf-blind
- Emotional disturbance
- Orthopedically impaired
- Other health impairment
- Traumatic brain injury

## ◆ Three Additional Areas (2011)

- Adapted Physical Education (APE)
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- Resource Specialist (RSP)



# Adapted Physical Education Added Authorization

- ◆ Authorized to teach students with special needs precluded from participating in a general education PE program or a specially designed PE program
- ◆ Appropriate Prerequisites:
  - General education credential with PE authorization
  - Special education credential or a services credential with a special class authorization with additional coursework in PE (2010)



## ECSE Added Authorization

- ◆ Add-on to a special education credential usually in the area of M/M or M/S disabilities or a previously issued special education credential with a similar specialty area
- ◆ Authorizes providing special education services, as determined by the local level, in the area of M/M or M/S disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injury for student's ages Birth to Pre-K





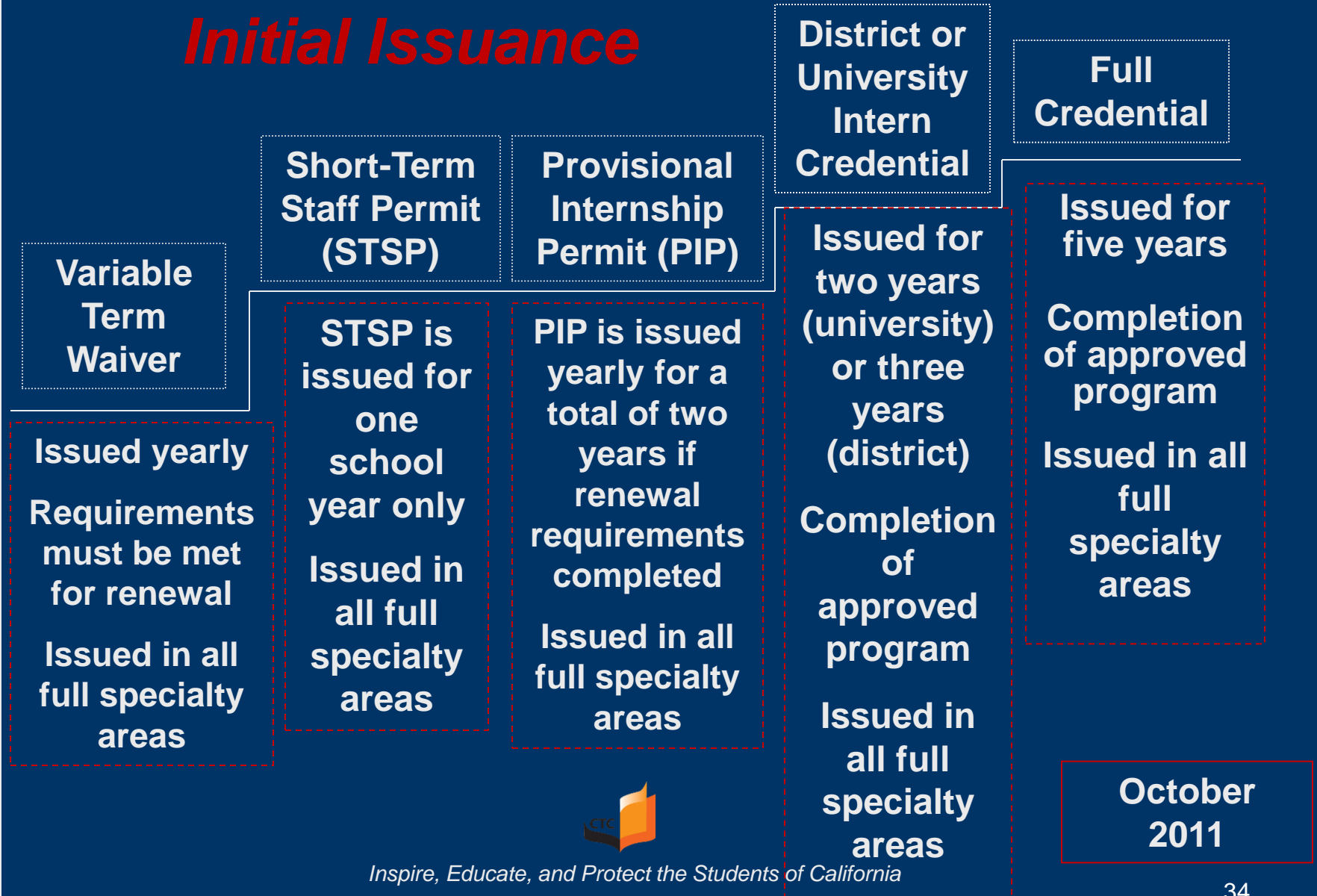
# RSP Added Authorization (AA)

- ◆ Preliminary and Clear RSP AA issued
- ◆ *The RSP Added Authorization and the RSP Authorization on the Education Specialist Credential authorizes providing resource services across all disability areas. However, a local employing agency may determine through the IEP process that an individual needs to hold an additional authorization*



# Special Education Certification Ladder

## Initial Issuance



# Variable Term Waiver (VTW) Purpose

- ◆ Allows employers to fill an assignment while searching for a credentialed teacher
- ◆ Only issued if the employer and the candidate meets the waiver criteria for the assignment

***Option of Last Resort***



# Teaching Permits Purpose

## Short-Term Staff Permit (*STSP*)

*Acute staffing need*

- ◆ Teacher unable to complete school year
- ◆ Enrollment adjustments

## Provisional Internship Permit (*PIP*)

*Anticipated staffing need*

- ◆ Conducts a diligent search but unable to find credentialed teacher



# Minimum Qualifications for STSP/PIP

- ◆ Applicant Requirements:
  - Bachelor's Degree
    - from a regionally accredited college
  - Basic Skills Requirement (BSR)
  - Qualify for the specific type of permit being requested



# Minimum Qualifications for Education Specialist STSP/PIP

- ◆ One of the following
  - Qualify for Multiple or Single Subject
  - Nine units in Special Education (or combination of Special Education and General Education)
  - Three years special education experience



# STSP

- ◆ Non-Renewable
- ◆ Cannot exceed one school year
- ◆ Restricted to employing agency
- ◆ Employer Requirements:
  - Recruitment
  - Provide orientation and ongoing support
  - Written justification signed by superintendent or designee



# PIP

- ◆ Issued in one year increments, restricted to employing agency with one-time renewal
- ◆ Employer conducts a diligent search but unable to find a credentialed teacher or qualified intern teacher
- ◆ Employer provides supervision, support and mentoring, and assistance to complete subject-matter competence





# Intern Credentials

- ◆ **University** - Teacher preparation program; cooperative effort between district and institution of higher education (IHE)
- ◆ **District** - Teacher preparation program by a district/county based on Commission standards
- ◆ Both authorize the same grade/age level of Education Specialist Preliminary and Clear Credentials



# Certification, Assignment and Waivers Division

- ◆ Information Services

Email: [credentials@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:credentials@ctc.ca.gov)

- ◆ Assignment Unit

Roxann Purdue, Consultant

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# Professional Services Division

Marilynn Fairgood, Consultant

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*For questions concerning special education teacher or service credential preparation programs*

