



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: September 30, 2016      Number: 16- 11

Subject: English Learner Authorization for Holders of Preliminary Teaching Credentials

## **Summary**

This Program Sponsor Alert provides guidance on the options available for individuals who hold preliminary or Level I credentials to earn a California English learner authorization.

## **Background**

All Preliminary Multiple Subject and Single Subject Teaching Credentials issued since July 1, 2003 and all Level I/Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Credentials issued since July 1, 2007 on the basis of a program completed in California include an English learner authorization. Out-of-state prepared teachers issued a preliminary or Level I credential on or after January 1, 2007 are required to earn a California English learner authorization/Crosscultural Language and Academic Development (CLAD) Certificate to establish their academic eligibility for a clear credential. Out-of-country prepared teachers are not required to earn a California English learner authorization to qualify for the clear credential, but may need such an authorization for employment purposes.

## **Key Provisions:**

The Commission has recently received requests from program sponsors for instructions on how to add an English learner authorization to a preliminary or Level I credential during the upgrade process to the clear credential. Although the program sponsors offer approved Level II, special education induction, and/or general education clear credential programs, they do not offer approved California Teachers of English Learners (CTEL) programs. Upon researching the requests, it was discovered that program sponsors were attempting to establish equivalency to

the English learner preparation components included in their preliminary programs in order to recommend individuals for the English learner authorization.

The knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide instruction to English learners are embedded throughout the preliminary general education and special education program standards; when a candidate completes a California teaching credential, they simultaneously earn an English learner authorization. An individual who has been issued a preliminary or Level I teaching credential that did not include an English learner authorization may not have his/her coursework evaluated by the general or special education teacher preparation program for purposes of providing this authorization. Therefore, if an institution does not have a Commission-approved CTEL program, the institution may not determine equivalency to the English learner authorization for preliminary or Level I credential holders during the upgrade process to the clear credential.

There is no specific course or group of courses associated with a Commission-approved preliminary teaching credential program that may be completed to earn a California English learner authorization after an individual has been issued a preliminary or Level I credential. In addition, the English learner components associated with the Level II and induction programs are not sufficient in breadth and depth to qualify an individual for an English learner authorization. Therefore, approved clear credential program sponsors (Level II or special/general education induction) that do not also offer Commission-approved CTEL programs **do not** have the authority to recommend for the addition of an English learner authorization during the upgrade process from the preliminary to clear credential.

#### Process for Attaining an English Learner Authorization

Individuals who hold Level I or preliminary teaching credentials, whether issued on the basis of a program completed in California or another state/country, must complete one of the following options to earn a California English learner authorization or CLAD Certificate:

- 1) Commission-approved CTEL program (requires recommendation from the program sponsor)
- 2) Pass the CTEL examinations (applicants applying by this option may apply directly to the Commission)
- 3) A combination of a Commission-approved CTEL program and CTEL examination(s) (requires recommendation from the program sponsor)
- 4) Provide a photocopy of a professional-level out-of-state teaching credential with a comparable English learner authorization (applicants applying by this option may apply directly to the Commission)

A link to the Commission's CL-628C leaflet that provides information related to the requirements for an English learner authorization or CLAD Certificate is provided in the References section. Additional information related to the procedures for adding an English

learner authorization to an existing credential is available in Credential Information Alert 14-07 through the link in the References section.

**Source:**

Education Code sections 44253.3 and 44259.5

Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations sections 80048.3.1, 80048.6, 80413, and 80413.3

**References:**

English Learner Authorization/CLAD Certificate leaflet (CL-628c):

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl628c.pdf>

Credential Information Alert 14-07 – Submission Process for Adding Credential Authorizations:

[http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/cig2/alerts/2014\\_alerts/CIA-14-07.pdf](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/cig2/alerts/2014_alerts/CIA-14-07.pdf)

**Contact Information**

Questions on this topic may be directed to the Commission's Information Services Unit at [credentials@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:credentials@ctc.ca.gov).