

Credentialing

1. I've heard a rumor from our district office about special education teachers needing more credentials or classes to be qualified to teach autistic kids, maybe more severely impaired. Will we be required to pursue classes to update our credentials? (2010 Spring)

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing has approved six new add-on teaching authorizations, including one for teaching students with autism spectrum disorders. The new authorizations can be added to an existing special education teaching credential to expand the scope of instruction for current teachers.

At the CARS+ conference (February 2010), CARS+ members were told that each district/SELPA will determine the requirements of the special educators in their area.

For more information contact your local district/SELPA or go to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing website to view their Powerpoint on this issue: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/webcast-files/2009-11-04-powerpoint.ppt#327,1>. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing can also be reached at 1-888-921-2682.

2. When do the new credentials take effect? (2009 Summer)

December 31, 2010 or the day prior to the *date* identified on the Plan to Transition, whichever is first. The last date to accept a candidate into a currently approved special education Level I program is January 31, 2013 or the *date* identified on the Plan to Transition plus 2 years, whichever is first.

3. Why do special educators need CLAD? (2009 Summer)

CLAD authorization is required by the state and enforced by county offices of education for ALL certificated teachers.

4. What are the current CLAD requirements? (2009 Summer)

Since Proposition 227, financed by Ron Uhns, passed into law, bilingual education has all but ended in California. Since then, SB 1969 and SDAIE training options have sunsetted and are no longer available to teachers. This training is required by the state and enforced by county offices of education. New teachers have the CLAD built into their credential programs, but what do veteran teachers without the CLAD do?

5. What was the cut-off date on CLAD certification? (2009 Summer)

Assembly Bill (AB) 1871 was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2008, providing that effective July 1, 2009, the Commission ceases the issuance of CLAD Certificates and instead issues English Learner Authorizations. This will result in the issuance of an "added authorization" to at least one existing prerequisite document, in lieu of the issuance of a separate certificate. The authorization will cover classes

authorized by any other valid, non-emergency credentials held, regardless of under which prerequisite document the applicant chooses to place the authorization. The requirements to earn the English learner authorization have been expanded, providing an additional option to qualify, by allowing for the combination of exams and course work, if equivalency has been determined by a Commission-approved program (this option became effective March 26, 2009). (CL-628C 4/09)

Check with your county office to determine which is the best option for you.