

Charter Educator Credentialing



In 2019, the Legislature enacted the most substantial changes to California's charter school laws since passage of the original California Charter Schools Act in 1992. These changes resulted from increased demands from district *and* charter parents, educators, administrators, and school board members, as communities throughout California faced the significant impacts of unregulated charter school growth, as well as increasing concerns that charter schools do not serve all students.

Included in these new laws are significant changes to credentialing requirements for charter school educators. Previously, the law provided some flexibility to teachers of "noncore, noncollege-preparatory classes" at charter schools, but the language was not clearly defined and as a result varied widely from school to school. AB 1505 changes this in the following ways:

New Teachers Employed in 2020-21

AB 1505 requires all **new** teachers, as of the 2020-21 school year and beyond, to hold the required credential for their assignment – as required of teachers in district schools – with no exceptions.

Teachers Employed in 2019-20

The law gives teachers **currently employed** at charter schools during the 2019-20 school year up to five years (until July 1, 2025) to obtain the required credential for their assignment.

CTC Clearance by July 1, 2020

Beginning on July 1, 2020, all teachers (new or continuing) in charter schools will be required to hold a Certificate of Clearance from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). A certificate of clearance includes a background check, fingerprinting, and a professional fitness questionnaire. Teachers who already have a credential *should* already have a certificate of clearance. The certificate of clearance also ensures that all teachers are part of the state's teacher database.

CTC Must Evaluate Credentials by June 2022

The bill also tasks the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) with evaluating whether existing credentials are adequate and requires the CTC to propose additional credentials and/or changes to the credentialing process by June 2022.

These changes represent a significant overhaul of existing laws, and it is important that they are implemented correctly from the start. Use our new rapid response hotline for **questions** or to **report new charter school petitions or requests to expand** in your district:



(650) 525-4362



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