



Credentialing Updates for COVID 19

Governor's Executive Order and CTC Actions for Flexibility (updated 06.02.20)

Credential holders and current credential candidates who are facing barriers because of statewide health and safety measures due to COVID 19 have received accommodations through actions adopted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) at its April 23-24 meeting, which were expanded by an Executive Order issued by Governor Newsom on May 29, 2020. The CTC acted only within the statutory boundaries available to the Commission, while the executive order was necessary to address issues outside the authority of the CTC to change. The changes that affect most credential holders are summarized below; additional approved actions can be found on the CTC website. Because of the specific and numerous conditions that apply to each situation, CTA members and staff should read the detailed requirements and guidance at <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/covid-19-commission-action-related-to-covid-19>. As of this date, there are 8 CTC archived webinars that discuss each of the actions in detail with related FAQs and written guidance available at the site referenced above; new webinars and guidance will become available as released.

1. Extensions for Renewal of Credentials/CTC Documents

The CTC will extend any expiring credentials and permits for one year even if all the renewal requirements have not been met [except for Provisional Intern Permits (PIP) and Short-Term Staff Permits (STSP). See #2 below for more information]. The extension is available for preliminary teaching credentials, preliminary services credentials, emergency permits, child development permits, and intern credentials for teachers and administrators. These extensions will be granted for “good cause” and the CTC considers the health and safety conditions to meet that standard. The credential holder must apply before September 1, 2020.

The CTC approved the Basic Skills/CBEST requirement (BSR) to be deferred for up to one year for any and all documents that require it. The deferral will not be granted to candidates who have taken the CBEST previously and failed the examination. Applications for the deferral must be received at the CTC by September 1, 2020.

2. Additional Actions on Short Term Staff Permits (STSP) and Provisional Intern Permits (PIP)

Two actions will affect STSP and PIP holders, depending on their individual circumstances. By statute, STSPs and PIPs are not renewable. Because the executive order allows those

entering an intern credential preparation program to delay their subject matter requirement, a number of holders of STSPs and PIPs will now be qualified to apply for an intern credential even if they have not passed CSET (see #5 below). The CTC is also allowing currently employed teachers who have been authorized on a STSP or PIP in 2019-20 to step-down to a Variable Term Waiver (VTW) for 2020-21 assuming the individual meets the qualifications for the waiver. This option could be utilized by those holders of expiring STSPs and PIPs who cannot enter an intern credential preparation program and will continue employment with the same employer for 2020-21. Information on moving from a STSP or PIP to a VTW can be found here: <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/commission/files/covid-19-waivers-submissions-faq.pdf>

3. Flexibility for Induction Programs (Teacher and Administrator Induction)

The CTC designated 2019-20 as a complete program year and induction participants do not need to participate in additional time to complete the year. Participants who were successfully completing their second year of induction prior to program shut-downs will be eligible to apply for a clear credential and participants who were successfully completing year one of induction will move on to their second year at the beginning of 2020-21 school year.

The CTC changed the requirement that a teacher or administrator entering induction must hold a preliminary credential. This will allow first year teachers in the 2020-21 school year to begin their induction program even if they are working under a Program Sponsor Variable Term Waiver (see more on the PS-VTW below).

4. Flexibility for Current Credential Candidates

Current credential candidates who were on track to complete their preliminary credential by the end of the preparation program's 2019/20 academic year but were unable to do so only because they were unable to complete the Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA), the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA), or the Administrator Performance Assessment (APA) will be granted a preliminary credential. All other requirements for the preliminary credential except the tests must have been completed. It is important to note that the requirement was not removed by the executive order, its completion was deferred and becomes a requirement of earning a clear credential. Induction programs for new teachers with this requirement will be expected to support the new teacher in completing their RICA and/or TPA as the focus of their induction plan.

Current credential candidates who were on track to complete their preliminary credential between March 19, 2020 and September 1, 2020 but were unable to do so because of the health and safety conditions of COVID 19 will be eligible to teach in the 2020-21 school year on a Program Sponsor Variable Term Waiver (PS-VTW). This option is available to

credential candidates who have additional components of their credential program to complete such as coursework or supervised teaching. The PS-VTW is a newly approved type of waiver that will be applied for by the credential preparation program. New teachers on a PS-VTW will be the teacher of record and will complete any remaining requirements for the preliminary credential (e.g., supervised teaching, coursework, TPA, RICA) as the content of their induction program. The unfinished requirements will be in lieu of, not in addition to, other induction work and will be specified in their Individual Induction Plan (IIP).

The CTC approved credential preparation programs to determine that a candidate has sufficient clinical practice hours even if the candidate has not completed the existing 600 hour requirement and that the candidate has satisfied the ‘solo’ teaching requirement, even if less than the required minimum number of weeks.

The CTC approved credential preparation programs to determine that Education Specialist candidates have sufficient experience across grade levels and settings even if they were unable to practice in all disability areas and settings authorized by their credential.

5. Flexibility for Incoming Credential Candidates Entering Programs in 2020-21

The executive order suspended the CBEST requirement for candidates to enter an educator preparation program. Again, the requirement was deferred, not eliminated. The basic skills requirement (BSR) must be met before the candidate can earn the preliminary credential.

The executive order waived the subject matter requirement for enrollment in a preparation program or issuance of an intern credential. The subject matter requirement must be met before the candidate can earn a preliminary credential.