

Oakland Unified School District

Charter School Teacher Credentialing

Credentialing Fact Sheet

Federal law states that charter schools are subject to the state charter laws regarding credentialing. According to California's charter laws¹, the definition of "core" for charter schools' credentialing purposes is established in the school's charter and by agreement with the agency that granted the charter school. At a minimum these shall include all English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics and high school Foreign Language courses. Additional "core" courses may be defined within the school's charter.

Teacher Credential Requirements:

A minimum of one of the following documents² MUST be maintained on file by the charter school and available for inspection prior to the start of instruction for all "core" teachers:

- Temporary County Certificate (limited use)**³
- 30 Day Emergency Substitute Teaching Permit**⁴
- Internship Credential**
- Preliminary Credential**
- Clear Credential**

ASSISTANCE

In order to partner with charter schools to assist in teacher credentialing matters the Oakland Unified School District has allocated the resource of a Credential Analyst within the District to provide assistance to the Office of Charter Schools with inquiries from charter schools authorized by the Oakland Unified School District.

Please forward teacher credentialing inquiries to Paige Abramson Hirsch at paige.hirsch@ousd.k12.ca.us.

¹ California EC Section 47605(l): "Teachers in charter schools shall hold a Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document equivalent to that which a teacher in other public schools would be required to hold. These documents shall be maintained on file at the charter school and are subject to periodic inspection by the chartering authority. It is the intent of the Legislature that charter schools be given flexibility with regard to non-core, non-college preparatory courses."

² CLAD Certification is required if assigned to teach a course designated for English Language Learners

³ Teachers awaiting entry into credential programs or who are awaiting out-of-state authorization must, at a minimum, possess a Temporary County Certificate pending the outcome of their aforementioned efforts leading to an intern, preliminary or clear credential.

⁴ A 30 Day Emergency Substitute Teaching Permit "authorizes the holder to serve as a substitute teacher for not more than 30 days for any one teacher during a school year in grades twelve and below..." Thus, this permit will not satisfy the credentialing requirements beyond the annual 30 instructional day limit.

Subject Matter Competency Fact Sheet

The guidance in the NCLB federal law further clarifies that while charter schools are exempt from the federal definition of "core" for credentialing purposes; they are still subject to this definition for the other NCLB mandated teacher qualifications. Thus, while teachers defined in their charters as "non-core" would not need a teacher credential, they would still need to hold **1)** a bachelor's degree and **2)** demonstrate subject matter competence if teaching in subjects deemed "core" pursuant to the federal definition.

Subjects deemed "core" pursuant to the federal definition are:

- **Mathematics** (including math intervention and CAHSEE-math classes)
- **Science** (Biological sciences; chemistry; geosciences; physics)
- **History**
- **Government**
- **Economics**
- **Geography**
- **Foreign languages** (specific)
- **Drama/theater; visual arts** (including **dance**), **music**
- **English/language arts/reading** (including reading intervention and CAHSEE-English classes)
- **Self-Contained/Elementary Multiple Subjects**

Subject Matter Competency may be verified by any **one** of four methods⁵:

EXAM

- I have passed a CCTC approved subject matter exam in the core subject that I teach. (i.e. CSET)

COURSEWORK

- I have completed a CCTC approved subject matter program in the core subject that I teach.
- I have a major in the core subject I teach.
- I have a major equivalent in the core subject I teach.
- I have a graduate degree in the core subject I teach.

ADVANCED CERTIFICATION

- National Board Certification in the core subject I teach.

HOUSSE

- I have completed the California's High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation in the core subject I teach.

⁵ **PLEASE NOTE:** A teacher holding a Valid CA Intern, Preliminary or Clear Teaching Credential will have likely satisfied the Subject Matter Competency requirements outlined above.