

BTSA Induction Requirements and Funding Flexibility

Funding for BTSA Induction programs has been provided through the Teacher Credentialing Block Grant (TCBG), one of the many programs now in Tier 3, allowing the LEA to redirect the funds for other educational purposes. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing has distributed an alert to program sponsors clarifying that the requirement for a teacher with a preliminary multiple or single subject credential to complete a BTSA induction program “has not been altered due to the fiscal structural changes.” That the requirement continues while funding may cease poses some serious challenges for members who are faced with completing requirements, both those members who retain their positions in 2009-10 and those who have lost their teaching positions due to reduction in force procedures.

1) Teachers who have lost their teaching position and who have completed the first year of their BTSA induction program may complete the BTSA induction program through another employer when they are hired into a new position. BTSA has designed an *Induction Transportability Process for Participating Teachers* that allows induction work already completed to transfer from one program to another. However, it is the responsibility of the teacher to provide the documented evidence of the work completed to the new program and to obtain a **transportability completion record** from the BTSA program in which he or she completed the first year. For details, go to

www.btsa.ca.gov/files/BTSA-Induction-Transportability-Process-for-Participating-Teachers.doc

2) Teachers who have lost their teaching position and completed the first year of their BTSA induction program but are unable to find another teaching position may be granted an extension of time for completing the induction requirement. Multiple and single subject 2042 preliminary credential holders have five years to clear their preliminary credential and earn a clear credential. If the teacher cannot clear the credential in five years because he/she was not teaching or was assigned to teach in a position where he or she may not complete the induction requirements (e.g. a long term substitute position) there are two and three year extensions available. The details and eligibility for the extensions can be found at www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2009/0905.pdf. These extension provisions apply also to teachers who have received their 2042 preliminary credential and have not yet been able to find a teaching position.

3) Teachers who work in districts that discontinue their BTSA induction programs may complete their induction requirements through a CTC-approved university program. In order to utilize this option, the employer of a preliminary credential holder must complete and sign the “*Verification of Unavailability of a Commission Approved Induction Program*” (Form CL 855) stating that BTSA induction is not available to the individual to allow that person to utilize the university program route to earn a clear credential. For more information on this option, go to www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/050010/050010.pdf. If an induction program is available through the employer, the teacher may not use the university option.

Teachers may also clear their credential through earning certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. A Nationally Board Certified Teacher whose certification area matches the area of the preliminary credential may apply directly to the CTC for a clear credential.

Other related issues:

- A BTSA induction program may charge fees for the teacher to participate in the program. Charging participants does not allow the teacher to decline to participate in an induction program if the teacher must complete one to clear the preliminary credential.
- If an employer ceases to offer a BTSA induction program in 2009-10 or a future year, the program has an obligation to assist teachers already participating in the program. Either the BTSA induction program must allow the participants to complete the program and earn the clear credential, or the program must assist current participants to find and transition to another CTC-approved induction program or university clear credential program.