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November 2, 2006

TO: Lynne Faulks
Manager, Legislative Relations

FROM: Patricia Rucker
Legislative Advocate

SUBJECT: Credential Renewal -
Changes to Professional Growth Requirements

SB 1209 (Scott) is an omnibus bill that was signed into law by the Governor in September, 2006. It addresses several issues related to credentialing, licensure, testing, and re-certification.

One component of the new law is the elimination of the professional growth requirement for credential renewal.

Effective January 1, 2007, for educators who hold a clear, professional, or professional clear California teaching or service credential, the new law:

- ✓ Eliminates the 150 clock hour requirement for professional growth every five years for credential renewal
- ✓ Encourages teachers to engage in an individual program of professional growth with no specific hour requirement
- ✓ Provides that a clear, professional, or professional clear teaching or service credential is valid for the life of the holder if the holder submits an application and fee for renewal to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing every five years and meets the standards relating to good moral character

Holders of *preliminary* teaching and service credentials must continue to fulfill relevant requirements to obtain their professional clear credential.

In addition, effective January 1, 2007, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing will require all clear, professional, and professional clear credential holders to renew their credentials online. The online renewal web page is:

<https://teachercred.ctc.ca.gov/teachers/RenewableSearchProxy>

The Commission's automated procedure, Virtual Credential Officer (VCO), can usually complete the credential renewal process within ten business days and credential holders will receive their credentials by mail two days later. Currently, nearly 5,000 credentials are renewed monthly online.

Teachers can use their personal computers or computers at their district offices or local libraries to access the renewal web page. Payment for the renewal fee will be by VISA or MasterCard debit or credit card; Commission web servers are protected by firewall and intrusion detection systems.

For more information, please visit www.ctc.ca.gov.

JR/JER/lt

cc: Barbara E. Kerr
David A. Sanchez
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CTA Board of Directors
Carolyn Doggett
Joe Nunez
CTA Staff