

November 10, 2003

TO: All Multiple Subject Credential Holders, Individuals Pursuing a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, and Liberal Studies Students Pursuing a Teacher Preparation Option

FROM: Dean Philip Rusche, Michael D. Eisner College of Education, and Interim Dean John Mason, College of Humanities

SUBJECT: Public Law 107-110 (The “No Child Left Behind” Act) Compliance

The recent federal “No Child Left Behind (NCLB)” legislation may affect you. The NCLB Act demands that classroom teachers be certified as “subject matter competent.” This competency may **ONLY** be certified by passage of an approved examination.

The California State Board of Education, the California Department of Education, and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) have determined that the state of California accepts passage of the Multiple Subject Assessment for Teachers (MSAT) examination if you passed it prior to January 25, 2003. Your total score must be registered with the CCTC within five years of passing the examination or you will not be certified as “subject matter competent.” After January 25, 2003, the state only accepts passage of the California Subject Examinations for Teachers: Multiple Subjects (CSET: MS). Further information about the CSET: MS is available on-line at <http://www.cset.nesinc.com>. **If you satisfied your subject matter competence by passing the MSAT before January 25, 2003, or by passing CSET: MS, you have met the “subject matter competency” requirement.**

NCLB legislation does affect you if you are currently in pursuit of a Multiple Subject credential or you have not met the “subject matter competency” requirement as described above. The following information is provided to assist you in understanding what you need to do and direct you to the sources that will be able to respond to your questions. Part A pertains to you if you are a Liberal Studies student currently in the Teacher Preparation Option. Part B pertains to you if you currently hold a Multiple Subject credential and are not teaching but plan to in the future. Part C pertains to you if you currently hold a Multiple Subject credential and are currently employed as a teacher by a school district.

Part A: Liberal Studies Students Currently in the Teacher Preparation Option

1. Those individuals currently enrolled in an SB2042 blended/integrated program of undergraduate teacher preparation (ITEP-Freshman Option or ITEP-Junior Option), and remain continuously enrolled may be recommended for a Multiple Subject credential *without* having passed the CSET examination. To qualify, you must complete the Multiple Subject credential program and be recommended for the credential by the Credential Office to the CCTC before July 1, 2009, pursuant to EC §44252.1 (Goldberg, Chapter 565, Statutes of 2001). **NOTE:** Although you may receive a Multiple Subject credential, the credential will be recognized as indicating “subject matter competent” non-compliance.
2. Those individuals currently enrolled in an Elementary (Multiple) Subject Matter Preparation Program, such as Liberal Studies, Pre-Credential Option, may be recommended for a Multiple Subject credential *without* having passed the CSET: MS examination. To qualify, you must complete your Elementary (Multiple) Subject Matter

Preparation Program and be admitted to and enrolled in a Multiple Subject credential program before July 1, 2004, pursuant to EC §44252.1 (Goldberg, Chapter 565, Statutes of 2001). **NOTE:** Although you may receive a Multiple Subject credential, the credential will be recognized as indicating “subject matter competent” non-compliance.

3. Those individuals who completed an Elementary (Multiple) Subject Matter Preparation Program, such as Liberal Studies, Pre-Credential Option including all required assessments, and have been admitted to and enrolled in a Multiple Subject credential program may be recommended for a Multiple Subject credential *without* having passed the CSET: MS examination. To qualify, you must complete the Multiple Subject credential program and be recommended for the credential by the Credential Office to the CCTC within two calendar years of your Multiple Subject credential program enrollment, pursuant to EC §44252.1 (Goldberg, Chapter 565, Statutes of 2001). **NOTE:** Although you may receive a Multiple Subject credential, the credential will be recognized as indicating “subject matter competent” non-compliance.

The Liberal Studies Teacher Preparation Option (ITEP-Freshman, ITEP-Junior, or Pre-Credential) at CSU Northridge is still the best way to prepare for elementary teaching **AND** the best way to prepare for the CSET: MS examination. Your coursework covers the areas tested in the CSET: MS and leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree, a requirement for Multiple Subject credential recommendation. Any questions you may have related to Part A of this letter should be directed to the Liberal Studies Office at (818) 677-3300. Additional information is also available on-line at <http://www.csun.edu/liberalstudies>.

Part B: Individuals Currently Holding or Pursuing a Multiple Subject Credential Who Are Not Teaching but Plan to Teach in the Future

If you satisfied (or are in the process of satisfying) your subject matter competence in an approved subject matter or “waiver” program and your initial Multiple Subject credential has (or will have) an effective issuance date later than June 30, 2002, you are **NOT** considered to be “subject matter competent” by NCLB standards. In other words, although you were deemed “subject matter competent” by California requirements at the point you exited your credential program and were recommended for your Multiple Subject credential or when you were admitted to your program, you **MUST** take and pass all parts of the CSET: MS examination according to the timelines set in NCLB to become NCLB compliant. The Credential Office and Education Equity Office staffs at CSU Northridge will answer your questions and assist you in registering for the CSET: MS by providing you the necessary information. You may contact an advisor at (818) 677-3002 or the Credential Office at (818) 677-2586.

Part C: Individuals Currently Holding a Multiple Subject Credential and Employed by a School District as a Teacher

If you are currently employed as a teacher and are **NOT** considered to be “subject matter competent” by NCLB standards (see Part B above), you should direct any questions you may have to your employer. District Personnel Department/Human Resources staff members, especially those responsible for certificated personnel, should be contacted for assistance.

Because school districts are currently required to hire only NCLB compliant teachers to teach in Title I schools and programs, and districts must ensure all core classes are taught by NCLB compliant teachers by the end of 2005-2006, it is very important that you follow up by seeking more information about your specific situation. Your current and future employment as a teacher may be at risk, so please contact the appropriate source without hesitation.

We hope this letter helps you better understand how NCLB legislation may affect you and provides you with direction to go for additional information. We also want to emphasize that although you may hold or receive a Multiple Subject credential that indicates you are "subject matter competent," it may also mean that you are "non-compliant" with NCLB requirements and you will need to pass the CSET: MS for hiring purposes. For further information on the impact of NCLB on issues related to employment as a teacher and teacher credentialing, we invite you to visit the CCTC's web site at <http://www.ctc.gov> and review Coded Correspondence #03-0025 at <http://www.ctc.gov/codcor.doc/030025/030025.html>.