



PRESS RELEASE

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State Commission Offers Six New Language Examinations for Foreign Language Teachers

SACRAMENTO – Recognizing the importance of preparing students for a global society, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) has expanded the number of language examinations for teaching credentials from 11 to 17.

“It is fitting that California take the lead in offering a wide variety of foreign language options for students. We are a multicultural, gateway state,” said P. David Pearson, the Chair of the Commission.

The six new California Subject Examinations for Teachers will be offered for the first time on November 3, 2007. The new language exams are for Arabic, Armenian, Cantonese, Farsi, Hmong and Khmer. California already offers teacher exams in American Sign Language, Filipino, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese.

Teachers interested in taking an examination may find further information and register for the exam at: <http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/>. The regular registration deadline is October 5, 2007. Late registration ends October 23, 2007. Study guides are available online.

As a result of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, all teachers of “core” subjects must hold either a major in the subject they teach or pass an examination in the subject. Foreign Language is included in the federal definition of “core” subjects. States across the country continue to grapple with identifying cost-effective ways to bring teachers of all foreign languages into federal compliance. While California offers more language exams than most states, the need for meeting local school district needs for specific languages persists. The Commission will continue its ongoing discussion related to meeting the need for foreign language exams at its October 4, 2007 meeting.

The foreign language exams will meet California’s requirement that teachers demonstrate their subject knowledge as one part of the teacher credentialing process. In addition to subject knowledge, teachers must complete a program of preparation in teaching methods and student teaching or complete an internship. Teachers who already hold a credential may add another subject to their credential by meeting just the subject knowledge requirement.

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