



State Of California  
California Commission On Teacher Credentialing  
Box 944270  
1900 Capitol Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2700

Telephone:  
(916) 445-7254 or (888) 921-2682  
E-mail: [credentials@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:credentials@ctc.ca.gov)  
Web site: [www.ctc.ca.gov](http://www.ctc.ca.gov)

## CALIFORNIA BASIC EDUCATIONAL SKILLS TEST

---

The California Education Code and Title 5 Regulations specify, in most cases, that applicants for a credential, certificate, or permit to serve in the public schools of California must verify basic skills proficiency by obtaining a passing score on the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) before the credential, certificate, or permit will be issued.

The CBEST serves two purposes in addition to certification. First, it may be required as a condition of employment. Applicants should contact the school district where they are considering employment for more information about this requirement. Second, the CBEST must be taken for diagnostic purposes prior to the final deadline for application for admission to a teacher preparation program. Contact the college or university education department for more information about this requirement.

Individuals only need to pass the CBEST once; CBEST passing scores remain valid indefinitely for all credential and employment purposes. To pass the CBEST, one must obtain a minimum scaled score of 41 in each of the three sections—reading, writing, and mathematics. However, a section score as low as 37 is acceptable if the total scaled score is at least 123. Any or all sections of the CBEST can be repeated as many times as necessary to obtain a passing score, but the full registration fee is charged for each test administration.

Applicants for the following documents are exempt from the CBEST requirement:

1. Renewal, reissuance, or upgrading of existing non-emergency credentials, certificates, or permits unless it is specifically indicated as a renewal requirement on the document
2. An additional credential, certificate, or permit to teach when the applicant holds a non-emergency California teaching credential which required a bachelor's degree
3. Credentials issued solely for teaching adults in apprenticeship programs
4. Designated Subjects Credentials for which a bachelor's degree is not required
5. Certificates of Clearance
6. Child Development Permits
7. Health Services Credentials, unless the document also authorizes teaching
8. Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Education Specialist Instruction Credential, for prelingually deaf applicants\*
9. School Counseling, School Psychology, and School Social Work Services Credentials, for prelingually deaf applicants\*

\*These credentials are restricted to service in state special schools or in classes for students who are deaf or hearing impaired. Prelingually deaf individuals who choose this option will be required to complete a job-related assessment in lieu of the CBEST.

Applicants for the following documents may serve on a credential for one year pending the passage of CBEST:

1. Exchange Credentials
2. One-Year Nonrenewable (OYNR) Credentials (Services credentials and some teaching credentials may be issued to applicants who have completed their professional training outside of California and who have met all of the requirements for an initial California credential except for a passing score on the CBEST. Applicants for the OYNR credential must submit a completed application packet through a California school district or county office of education that includes written verification that they have offered employment to the credential applicant, **and** the applicant has passed a basic skills test developed by the district or county. The district basic skills test does not replace the CBEST, which must still be taken and passed during the first year of employment.)
3. Out-of-State trained holders of the preliminary multiple subject, single subject, and education specialist credentials must pass the CBEST during the first year of certification

The *CBEST Registration Bulletin*, available from the CBEST Program (see contact information on below), provides comprehensive information and instructions on test registration and administration processes. It is also available at many school district and county education offices, testing offices, and education department offices at California colleges and universities offering Commission-approved subject-matter or professional preparation programs.

<b>Administration of CBEST</b>	<b>Credentialing Requirements</b>
<p><b>CBEST Program</b>  <b>National Evaluation Systems, Inc.</b>  <i>P.O. Box 340880</i>  <i>Sacramento, CA 95834-0880</i>  <i>(916) 928-4001</i>  <i>(TDD) 928-4191</i>  <i>Automated Information System (24 hours a day)</i>  <i>(800)262-5080</i>  <i>E-mail: cbestmail@nesinc.com</i>  <i>Web Site: www.cbest.nesinc.com</i></p> <p>Please include your postal address in e-mail messages.</p>	<p><b>California Commission on Teacher Credentialing</b>  <i>Box 944270</i>  <i>Sacramento, CA 94244-2700</i>  <i>(916) 445-7254 or (888) 921-2682</i>  <i>E-mail: credentials@ctc.ca.gov</i>  <i>Web site: www.ctc.ca.gov</i></p> <p>Please include your postal address in e-mail messages.</p>

[Click here](#) for Registration Schedule and Fee Information