



English Learner Authorization and Intern Credentials: Q & A

Q. What is the English Learner Authorization (ELA)?

A. The ELA signifies that teachers have acquired the specialized knowledge and skills to support EL students' English language acquisition as well as access to academic content across the curriculum.

Q. Who receives English Learner (EL) services?

A. According to the California Department of Education (CDE), there were 1.4 million English learner students in public schools in 2010-11 (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/cb/cefelfacts.asp>).

Q. How does a teacher currently earn an ELA?

A. Generally, the ELA can be obtained several ways:

- Complete a Commission-approved Multiple Subject, Single Subject or Education Specialist Preliminary Teacher Preparation Program, where EL pedagogy is embedded in the program;
- Complete a Commission-approved California Teachers of English Learners (CTEL) Program or a Commission-approved Bilingual Authorization Program; or
- Pass the Commission-adopted California Teachers of English Learners (CTEL) Examination.

Q. When is an ELA awarded to an Intern Credential holder?

A. Presently the ELA is awarded concurrently with an Intern Credential for Multiple Subjects, Single Subject and Education Specialist Teaching Credentials.

Q. Do any Interns currently have the ELA through another authorization?

A. Those Interns who already hold a valid California credential may already have earned the full ELA by virtue of their prior preparation and/or examination history, such as a Multiple Subject Credential holder who is serving on a Special Education Intern Credential.

Q. What recent action has the Commission taken to address and update the preparation to serve California's English Learners?

A. The Commission has focused a variety of recent activities on addressing and improving preparation for meeting the needs of students who are English learners and on updating the knowledge and skills required of individuals who teach or provide services to these students. At the January-February 2013 meeting, the Commission discussed the appropriateness of issuing an ELA to credential holders who have not been prepared to teach English learners. (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2013-01/2013-01-4C.pdf>). This item provides additional background about statutory requirements for teachers of English learners, and presents draft policy language that will clarify the Commission's requirements for adding an English learner authorization to an intern credential.

Q. What key policy question is the Commission addressing at its March 7, 2013 meeting?

A. The key policy issue presented at this meeting concerns the timing of *when* an authorization to teach English learner students should be awarded to an individual who holds an Intern Credential.

Q. What change is being contemplated from current policy with regard to ELA for Interns?

A. That an individual must complete preparation to teach English learners (through a Commission-approved preparation program) or pass the Commission-adopted examination prior to earning an authorization to teach English learners.

Q. How would an Intern qualify for an ELA under this proposed policy change?

A. If the Commission adopts this policy, individuals who are recommended for an Intern Credential would qualify for an ELA when **one** of the following has occurred:

- 1) The intern holds an authorization to teach English learners through a different valid California teaching credential that includes an ELA.
- 2) The intern passes the CTEL Examination and applies for the ELA.
- 3) The intern completes a Commission-approved CTEL or Commission-approved Bilingual Authorization program and is recommended by the program sponsor for the ELA.
- 4) The intern completes all relevant Teaching English Learners coursework and fieldwork, except the Teaching Performance Assessment, and is recommended by the program sponsor for the ELA.

For additional information on how Interns and Intern Programs could qualify for an ELA under the proposed new policy, see [Agenda Insert 3A, pages 2-3](#).