

Approaches to Middle Level Credentialing in California

Credentialing requirements for middle level teachers in California are a challenge since the implementation of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal legislation. The chart provided here provides a summary of the various approaches to teach at middle level. For additional details, see the CCTC websites cited.

Authorization or Credential	What you can Teach	What you need	NCLB and other Compliance Status
<p>Multiple Subject-credential</p>	<p>Multiple subject K-12 (self contained classroom or in a core setting which is teaching two or more subjects to same group of children in grades 5-8)</p>	<p>Multiple subject credential program at an accredited institution, CBEST, multiple subjects CSET, RICA exam</p>	<p>-Based on the curriculum taught at a school site or at a particular grade level within the school, it is the responsibility of the Local Education Agency (LEA) to determine whether a teacher's core academic assignment is an elementary or middle/high school assignment. Based on this LEA designation (elementary or secondary), the teachers' at the school or grade level must follow the appropriate NCLB path for demonstration of subject matter competence for the core area/s they are assigned. The teacher must work with their LEA regarding the designation (elementary or secondary) of the middle school classes.</p>
<p>Introductory Supplementary Authorization</p>	<p>Teach departmentalized classes related to the supplementary authorization listed in grades 9 and below</p>	<p>Hold a multiple subject or single subject credential.</p> <p>AND --</p> <p>Degree major or 20 semester units or 10 upper division semester units; Introductory subjects require at least one course in each of the content areas; the balance of the ten or twenty units may be in any course within the subject category.</p>	<p>Supplementary authorizations did not change when the CCTC developed the new subject matter authorizations in 2005 and are still a viable option in which to assign a teacher to serve in the subject and grade level authorized by the supplementary authorization. NCLB subject matter competence is between the teacher, the local employing agency, and the federal Department of Education. It is a separate issue from appropriate assignment though one an employer must consider. Routes to NCLB compliance vary depending if the teacher is "new" or "not new". Questions concerning NCLB subject matter competence should be addressed to the California Department of Education at writecde@cde.ca.gov.</p>

Introductory Subject Matter Authorization	Single subject in grades 9 and below in NCLB core academic subject areas.	Hold a multiple subject or single subject credential. Degree major OR 32 semester units. Introductory subjects require at least three semester units in each of the content area; science requires six semester units in each content area with the balance of the 32 units from any courses within the subject category.	Introductory subject matter authorizations meet California requirements for teaching single subjects in grades 9 and below; and are NCLB compliant. (see CCTC Subject Matter Authorization Guidebook 2/05; www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/manuals-handbooks/Subject-Matter-Auth.pdf)
Earning a Single Subject Credential for holders of Multiple Subject Credentials	Authorizes single subject teaching grades K-12 in subject listed on document.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hold a multiple subject credential. 2) Pass all sections of the single subject CSET. OR complete a CCTC approved subject matter competency program in the subject area. 3) Take single subjects methods course (note that there may be prerequisite courses for mathematics at SJSU) 	Meets California and NCLB requirements for teaching the single subject. Even though it exceeds NCLB requirements, some districts in the Bay Area require this of middle level teachers if the courses are designated as secondary (rather than elementary).
Specific Subject Matter Authorization	Single subject in grades K-12 in NCLB core academic subject areas.	Hold a multiple subject or single subject credential. Degree major OR 32 semester units. History requires 16 units in both US and World history.	Specific subject matter authorizations meet California requirements for teaching specific single subjects in grades K-12; and are NCLB compliant. (see CCTC Subject Matter Authorization Guidebook 2/05; www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/manuals-handbooks/Subject-Matter-Auth.pdf)
Foundational Math Credential	Authorizes teaching general math, algebra, geometry, probability and statistics and consumer math in grades 12 and below (excluding AP mathematics courses)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hold a multiple subject or single subject credential 2) Passing scores on the first two subtests of the CSET: Mathematics. These subtests include: Subtest I: Algebra; Number Theory (test code 110) and Subtest II: Geometry; Probability and Statistics (test code 111). OR complete a CCTC approved subject matter competency program (none currently available) 3) Take secondary math methods course*. OR 1) Complete a single subject teacher preparation program including student teaching and #2 above 	<p>Meets California requirements for teaching math that is commonly taught in grades 9 and below; and is NCLB compliant. See coded correspondence 03-0010. www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/030010/030010.html</p> <p>Note: SJSU Math department does not currently issue this credential. It approves either Introductory Subject Matter Authorization or Single Subject Credential.</p> <p>*One CTC approved course is offered at National University: TED 625B - Instruction and Classroom Management for Secondary and Middle Schools.</p>

Foundational Science Credential	Authorizes teaching general and introductory science up to grade 12, but not departmentalized Biology, Chemistry, Physics or GeoSciences.	1) Hold a multiple subject or single subject credential 2) Passing scores on the Foundational subtests of the Science CSET. OR complete a CCTC approved subject matter competency program (coursework is being developed at SJSU as the 32 unit science education minor)	Credential is not yet approved by the CCTC but is under review. When approved the credential will be NCLB compliant.
Specialized Science Credential	Authorizes instruction in the specific science area listed on the credential (Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geosciences, or Physics) in grades twelve and below. This credential does not, however, permit instruction of general, introductory, or integrated science.	1) Hold a multiple subject or single subject credential. 2) Passing scores on the appropriate subject matter examinations in the specialized area of science: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth and Planetary Science (Geoscience), or Physics. OR complete a CTC approved subject matter competency program. 3) Take secondary science methods course <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> 1) Complete a single subject teacher preparation program including student teaching and #2 above	Meets California and NCLB requirements for teaching the single science subject but not for integrated or introductory science courses. See coded correspondence 03-0010. www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/030010/030010.html Note -- This option only works for middle grade teaching if the courses are designated as specific to the area of credential, i.e., biological science or geoscience.