



Credentialing FAQ

We appreciate your interest in joining the Making Waves Academy team! To assist you in navigating the credentialing process, we've prepared this FAQ document. It aims to provide you with valuable insights into the different credential scenarios that might apply to your situation. Feel free to explore it, and should you have any further questions, don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to support you on your journey with us.

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Out of State Applicants

Q: I have a credential from out of state and am interested in teaching in California. What do I need to be eligible to teach at Making Waves Academy?

At Making Waves Academy, it's essential for all teachers to possess a valid California credential before the first day of school. You must apply to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing if you have out-of-state credentials.

To ensure a smooth transition, applicants must submit the required application and supporting documentation within 14 days of applying for employment at Making Waves Academy. If assistance is needed, please feel free to contact humanresources@mwacademy.org.

Note: Early submission is highly recommended, as the credentialing process may take several months from application receipt to California credential approval from the Commission.

For detailed information on the out-of-state application process, please refer [here](#).

Applicants Without A Credential

Q: Where do I start if I am interested in teaching in California but do not hold a credential?

[Teach California](#) is a user-friendly website that offers information about the different routes to obtain a teaching credential in California. A helpful Q&A feature called the "Virtual Advisor" can provide expert answers to your specific questions. As you advance through the hiring process, a dedicated MWA HR representative will readily offer guidance and support, ensuring compliance with all necessary credential requirements. Depending on your employment status (full-time or part-time), this may involve the implementation of a structured Teacher Plan.

General Questions

Q: What is the difference between a Preliminary and a Clear credential in California?

In California, our teaching credential system operates in two stages.

1. **Preliminary Credential:** Initially, you'll receive a Preliminary credential, valid for five years. During this period, it's essential to fulfill all the credentialing requirements and apply for a Clear credential. If you require induction support (usually for individuals with less than 2 years of experience), you should begin an induction program in your first year with a Preliminary credential.
2. **Clear Credential:** The path to a Clear credential varies based on factors like the location of your teacher credentialing program and your years of teaching experience. A Clear credential signifies that you've successfully met all of California's credentialing requirements. Remember, Clear credentials must be renewed every five years to remain valid.

This system ensures that educators meet high standards and continually develop their skills throughout their teaching careers.

Q: What exams are required to earn a credential in California?

In California, there are several exams available to fulfill credentialing requirements. You can find further details by visiting the CTC website [here](#).

For most teachers, the basic skills exam requirement can be fulfilled through the CBEST or alternative scores, with additional information found [here](#).

Similarly, subject matter exams are typically necessary, and you can learn more about them [here](#).

Furthermore, most educators will also need to take an English Language Learner exam (CTEL). For more information on CTET, please refer to the details below.

Q: What are the different ways I can meet the Basic Skills Requirement in California?

In California, there are various ways to meet the Basic Skills Requirement. You can either:

1. Take and pass the CBEST exam, or

2. Provide an official record of any of the following, regardless of when you passed them:
 - a. SAT scores with English 500 or higher and Math 550 or higher,
 - b. ACT scores with English 22 or higher and Math 23 or higher,
 - c. AP scores of 3 or higher in AP English Language or Literature, and 3 or higher in AP Calculus or AP Statistics,
 - d. EAP status as college-ready or exempt,
 - e. EPT/EPT scores of 151 or above and ELM scores of 50 or above.

These options allow flexibility in meeting the Basic Skills Requirement, making it accessible to a wide range of individuals.

Q: How do I earn an English Learner authorization in California?

In California, it's mandatory for all credential holders to have an English Learner (EL) authorization. If you earned your teaching credential in California, the EL authorization was automatically included in your credentialing program. However, if you obtained your credential in another state, you'll likely need to earn an EL authorization as part of the process to clear your credential in California. Here are the ways you can obtain it:

1. Pass the [CTEL Exam](#): This is often the simplest method, although the exam requires thorough preparation. You can find online resources to help you study [here](#).
2. Complete a CTET Program: You can also choose to enroll in and successfully complete a CTET program.
3. Submit Out-of-State Credentials: If you have completed EL coursework and have EL authorization through your out-of-state credentialing program, you can provide evidence of this directly to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). This evidence may exempt you from needing to earn an EL authorization in California.

More detailed information on these options can be found [here](#).

Q: I hold a California Preliminary credential. How can Making Waves Academy assist me in the process of clearing my credential?

In California, teachers are granted a five-year window to clear their CA Preliminary credential after issuance. At Making Waves Academy, our HR department diligently monitors all teachers who are eligible for the two-year [CCCOE Teacher Induction Program](#) (TIP) each year and enrolls them in order of eligibility. Additionally, we provide all teachers with an HR Teacher Plan to document their commitment to meeting this requirement, which is essential for their continued employment at MWA.