

California Department of Education
Guideline Pertaining to Career Technical Education Teachers Meeting
the Highly Qualified Teacher Provision of NCLB

The following guideline has been developed to assist districts in determining if their career technical education (CTE) teachers meet the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

If a district has a policy that allows for alternative ways in meeting high school graduation requirements via *Ed Code* Section 51225.3(b), then a CTE instructor can teach a CTE course that meets a mandated academic requirement provided they are properly credentialed in their respective CTE discipline.

Section 51225.3(b) provides an alternative method for meeting high school graduation requirements: "The governing board, with the active involvement of parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, **shall adopt alternative means for students to complete the prescribed course of study** which may include practical demonstration of skills and competencies, supervised work experience or other outside school experience, career technical education courses in high schools, courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public."

District officials may ask about credential authorization for such a CTE class. Please be advised that the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing has ruled repeatedly that if a class is a CTE based class and the school district has a policy that allows granting graduation credits to the class per *EC* Section 51225.3(b), then it may be taught by the holder of a credential authorizing the teaching of CTE.

In terms of meeting the "highly qualified teacher" provision of NCLB. The California Department of Education (CDE) has established policy that if a CTE course is an alternative way to meet graduation requirements as stated in *Ed Code* Section 51225.3(b); and the teacher has a four-year college degree and is properly credentialed (Designated Subject, Single Subject, or Standard Secondary) in their career technical education discipline; that this

teacher would meet the "highly qualified teacher" provision – whether “New” or “Not New.” For further information on this matter, please contact the Lynda Nichols, NCLB HQT Coordinator at: lnichols@cde.ca.gov or Lloyd McCabe, Policy Consultant at lmccabe@cde.ca.gov.

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