



## **CLAD ALERT!** **April 6, 2006**

The Livermore Education Association is encouraging all members to obtain their CLAD certificate or equivalent.

Members who thought they could “ride out” the CLAD certificate requirement and slip through to retirement are now finding out that unless they retire in 2006, they won’t make it through. Legal requirements being implemented through the Williams Settlement now require ALL teachers in ANY class required for graduation to hold a CLAD certificate or equivalent if they have even one English Learner in their classroom. Considering that all grades K-5 and all courses offered 6-12 (even Physical Education, Music, Electives, Foreign Language and other courses typically not thought of as “Core Subjects”) are *or can be* counted to meet graduation requirements; this leaves no member, K-12, unaffected by Williams.

School Districts are not obligated to keep EL students out of a teacher’s classroom if they do not have their certificate. Quite to the contrary, the intent of the Williams Settlement is to make the curriculum and all courses accessible to all students. If a District is denying access to any course or instructor because the instructor does not have their CLAD certificate, it could be argued that they are going against the intent of the Settlement.

Even though the number of layoffs in California significantly decreased this year, there were districts that laid-off employees without their CLAD certificate or equivalent and kept less senior employees who hold their certificate. While the CTA Legal Department is assisting these affected members to the best of its ability, there is no case law to support the retention of members who do not meet the requirements set forth under the Williams Settlement. The California Teachers Association is recommending that members take the first available opportunity to obtain their CLAD certificate or equivalent.

One option available to our members is the California Teachers of English Learners (CTEL) Examination administered by the National Evaluation System. Passing all sections of the CTEL exam will allow a member to apply for a CLAD certificate. Registration information, test dates, study guides and more information can be found at [www.ctel.nesinc.com](http://www.ctel.nesinc.com). The next available test date is June 24, 2006 with the regular registration deadline being May 9, 2006.

Another option available to members who have been permanent employees of a CA school district since January 1, 1999 is the in-service opportunity renewed by AB2913. AB2913 renewed SB1969/SB395; the legislation that ended January, 2006 and modified the in-service curriculum to meet the new CTEL Standards. There are other qualifications and requirements for this option, so members should be sure to check with the in-service provider to ensure that they meet ALL requirements prior to taking the training.

The final option for members may be to complete the higher education CLAD courses still being offered by some universities. According to the University of San Diego-Online website, members may apply for their CLAD certificate after successfully completing four, 3-unit courses. The text and video series is available for purchase through the University and some local school districts own the series and make it available for check-out through their IMC or Curriculum Department. The concern with this option is that the courses are still based on the CLAD Standards – NOT the CTEL Standards that are currently required. The CA Commission on Teaching Credentialing (CCTC) will be deciding at their May/June meeting what they want to do about the higher education courses. Because the CTEL Standards are already in place, it is not presently known if the Commission will or won't continue to accept these courses after their May/June meeting.

To further complicate the situation, thousands of members have taken the SB 1969/SB395 trainings over the last ten+ years. Upon completion of the course, participants receive a letter of completion with instructions to submit that letter, a completed CCTC form, and a check to the Commission in order to apply for their CLAD certificate. We have found that some members/districts mistakenly placed that letter in their file and did not apply for the actual certificate. It is important for members to individually check their status on the CCTC website at <https://teachercred.ctc.ca.gov/teachers/PublicSearchProxy> to be sure that their certificate is listed alongside their other credentials and certificates.

Some members may be teaching in a program that does not require a Bachelor's Degree. Normally, a Bachelor's Degree is a prerequisite for obtaining a CLAD Certificate. The CCTC does have an alternate route for members who do not hold a Bachelor's Degree. Information regarding that route may be found at [www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl628c.html](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl628c.html).