

## Added Authorization in Autism FAQ

The California State Legislature passed AB 2160 which requires certain Special Education teachers to obtain an added authorization in Autism Spectrum Disorders **if that teacher is assigned to instruct students with autism on his/her caseload now or in the future.** AB 2160 officially goes into effect on October 1, 2013.

### **1. Who needs to obtain this authorization?**

Special Education teachers who have an Ed. Specialist Mild/Moderate, Visual Impairments (VI), Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) or Physically Handicapped (PH) credential

#### **And:**

Have a student with autism on their caseload

If these two conditions **BOTH** apply, you will need to have this authorization after October 1, 2013.

### **2. Does the law require that I must obtain this authorization in order to work in my position as a Special Education teacher?**

This law does not require teachers with the above-mentioned credentials to obtain this authorization. Rather it is a requirement those teachers must have the authorization **IF** their assigned caseload requires them to instruct students with autism. So in other words, if you do not have any students with autism on your caseload, the District cannot require you to have this authorization. But if/when a student with autism is assigned to your caseload, the District can require proof of your autism authorization.

### **3. I plan to retire soon; do I still have to obtain this authorization?**

The legislation unfortunately does not make any exceptions for individuals that are near retirement. The requirement is the same for all impacted teachers (see question # 1): if you have a student with autism on your caseload after October 1, 2013 you must have this authorization.

### **4. Is there any way to postpone the deadline that I have to obtain this authorization by?**

Yes, you can apply for a Special Education Limited Assignment Teaching Permit (SELAP). This permit is valid only for one year and may be renewed for a second year **if** the teacher has completed at least six semester units of course work (or its equivalent) required for the added authorization.

### **5. I am a general education teacher but I have students with autism in my class, do I also have to obtain this authorization?**

No, this authorization is required only of the impacted special education teachers (See # 1) who have students with autism on their caseload.

### **6. How much will the District's authorization credentialing program cost me?**

According to the Memorandum of Understanding between SDUSD and SDEA, there will be a total of four courses in the District's program. The complete program's cost for the impacted teacher is capped at \$320, with each class costing \$80 each.

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**7. Will the District's autism authorization coursework count towards column advancement on the salary schedule?**

Yes, the District's program will count towards column advancement, up to a maximum of 12 units (3 units for each class).

**8. I'm currently teaching in an area other than special education (Multiple Subject, English, etc.), but I also happen to have one of the credentials listed in #1 above, can I still take the District's courses?**

No, unfortunately SDEA was limited in scope to negotiate the impacts and effects related to AB2160. What that means is that we can only negotiate the impacts of this legislation on the teachers that would be currently impacted by AB 2160 and its requirements.

**9. I have already enrolled (or have completed) an autism authorization program at an outside institution (e.g. National University), do I benefit in any way from this new MOU?**

Yes, if you are an *impacted teacher*, you are eligible to be reimbursed 60% or up to \$480 of the cost of the program, once the outside program is completed. You will have to submit verification of the coursework completion by August 31, 2013.