STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Examination Committee **DATE: September 25, 2012**

FROM: Lavinia F. Snyder
Licensing/Registration Coordinator

SUBJECT: Consider English as a Second Language as a Basis for an Accommodation in Taking the Examination

At the last Board meeting, the Board requested additional information from other State Boards regarding their policy concerning examination accommodations for English as a second language (ESL).

Attached is the Board's policy regarding ESL and the results from an email sent to the different State Boards in the Unites States. In addition the following information was gathered from other entities:

1. Association for State and Provincial Psychology Board (ASPPB), the Board that administers the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology, does not consider ESL as a disability and that California is the only state that allows exam accommodations for candidates with ESL.

2. The Medical Board of California, does not have any regulations/statutes relative to ESL.

3. The Board of Behavioral Science use to provide ESL until 07/01/2011. Their requirements for ESL were very similar to our Board's requirement. However, since ESL is not considered a disability BBS eliminated this accommodation for candidates taking their exams.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY

PETE WILSON Governor

Consumer Affairs

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
1422 HOWE AVE, SUITE 22
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825-3200
(916) 263-2699

BOARD POLICY: Reasonable Accommodations for Psychology Licensing Examinations

ADOPTED: July 27, 1991

1. All examinations (written and oral) will be administered at designated examination sites which will be handicapped accessible. For security reasons, off-site exam administration will not be an option.

2. All reasonable accommodations will be made to disabled candidates when proper notice is given and appropriate medical verification of disability is provided well in advance of the examination date.

   For those disabled candidates requiring a reader, the candidate must provide their own reader who must certify that they have no experience or knowledge of the subject of psychology. The Board will provide a proctor to sit in with the candidate and reader during the taking of the written examination.

3. Candidates for the written examination who claim "English as a second language" may be allowed up to two additional hours to take the examination upon adequate prior notice of such need provided both of the following conditions are met:

   a. The candidate submits proof that original entry into the United States occurred within the last ten years, and

   b. Original entry into the United States did not occur prior to the candidates's beginning of university training.

Proof will consist of copies of the candidate's entry papers.

PLEASE NOTE:

The written examination results of those candidates who have been granted additional time to take the examination, regardless of the reason, will be reported to the Professional Examination Service as having been completed under non-standard conditions. Their scores will not be used in the computation of the national norms, therefore the candidate must accept responsibility concerning reciprocity consideration with other state licensing boards.

STATE BOARD	STATUTE, REGULATION OR POLICY	EXAM ACCOMMODATION
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California	Policy available	Accommodation will be provided to candidates who have have been in this country for less than ten years. Candidates must document proof of entry into the US
Colorado		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
District of Columbia		
Florida		
Georgia		
Guam	No provision	Do not allow accommodation
Hawaii	No provision	Do not allow accommodation
Idaho		
Illinois		
Indiana		
Iowa		
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine	No provision	Do not allow accommodation
Maryland		
Massachusetts		
Michigan		
Minnesota	No provision	Do not allow accommodation
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska		
Nevada	No provision	If requested Board would have to discuss and vote
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York	No provision	Do not allow accommodation
North Carolina	No provision	Do not allow accommodation
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		

Oregon	YES. OAR 858-010-0030(5) Special Accommodations. Requests for special accommodations for a disability or for English as a second language must be made at the time the written request to sit for the examination is made, or when the disability becomes known to the applicant. The request must include:	(b) English as a Second Language: Written request for reasonable accommodation detailing: (A) Level of proficiency in English including, but not limited to, number of years speaking and/or writing English; (B) History of special accommodations granted in similar testing circumstances; (C) Other information to support request for special accommodation; and (D) Recommendation(s) for accommodation
Pennsylvania		
Puerto Rico		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee	No provision	Do not allow accommodation
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Virgin Islands		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		