

# California Background Check Requirement

## How to get a substitute teaching permit

Getting a California sub permit will allow you to access the most teaching opportunities, including those in public school districts. However, not all substitute teaching roles require a permit.

There are three different kinds of permits to consider:

1. **Emergency 30-Day Substitute Teaching Permit**, the best choice for most prospective subs.
2. **Emergency Substitute Teaching Permit for Prospective Teachers**, for subs currently studying to become credentialed teachers.
3. **Emergency Career Substitute Permit**, for experienced California subs.

## Meet the general qualifications

No matter which permit makes the most sense for you, you'll need to complete the following tasks:

1. Pass a basic skills test. You can satisfy this requirement in any of the following ways:
  1. [The SAT](#): Score 500 or higher in Critical Reading **and** 550 or higher in Math.
  2. [The ACT](#): Score 22 or higher in English **and** 23 or higher in Math.
  3. [The California Basic Educational Skills Test \(CBEST\)](#): Score at least 123 points. You can also qualify by passing the basic skills test of another state.
  4. [The California Subject Examinations for Teachers \(CSET\): Multiple Subjects Plus Writing Skills Examination](#): Score at least 220 on all three sections of the test.
  5. [The College Board Advanced Placement \(AP\) Examinations](#): Score 3 or higher in math (AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, or AP Statistics) **and** in English (AP English Language and Composition or AP English Literature and Composition)

Pay the \$100 [processing fee](#).

## Steps to completing the background check

1. Fill out the [Application](#).
2. If you have any incidents to report on your application, fill out the [Professional Fitness Explanation Form](#) for each incident.
3. Get fingerprinted. [LiveScan](#) locations also provide fingerprinting. Download and fill out [this form](#) and take it to any location.

# Tips for your background check

- Disclose everything.
- Err on the side of over-reporting — include incidents even if they seem negligible to you, happened when you were a minor, or happened in another state.
- Be thorough and specific.

# Red flags on a background check

The following will bar you from teaching in the state of California:

- Any violent crime
- Any first- or second-degree crime
- Any crime that endangered others
- Most drug offenses

Like a court, the Commission will take the following into consideration when evaluating your criminal history:

- Age when the crime occurred
- Time elapsed since the crime occurred
- Severity of the crime
- Your record as a whole