



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JASON E. GLASS, DIRECTOR

DATE: September 18, 2012

TO: Education Stakeholders, Institutes of Higher Education

FROM: Jason E. Glass, Director – Iowa Department of Education

SUBJECT: 2012 Legislative Session – Practitioner Preparation Program Assessments

In my letter to Education Stakeholders dated July 16, 2012, I outlined the new statutory requirements for Practitioner Preparation Program Assessments. In May, SF 2284 was signed into law by Governor Branstad, amending Iowa Code 256.16 which states, "... the state board shall adopt rules requiring all higher education institutions providing practitioner preparation to do the following:" by replacing subsection 1, paragraph a, (2) with:

Administer, prior to a student's completion of the practitioner preparation program and subject to the director's approval, subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge of at least one subject area; or, a valid and reliable subject-area-specific, performance-based assessment for preservice teacher candidates, centered on student learning. A student shall not successfully complete the program unless the student achieves scores above the twenty-fifth percentile nationally on the assessments administered pursuant to this subparagraph.

The Department will begin enforcement of this provision effective January 1, 2013.

On September 5, 2012, a day-long meeting was held to review and decide on tests to be used to meet this statutory requirement. The meeting included staff of the Iowa Department of Education (IDE), staff of the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE), members of the Iowa Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (IACTE) and representatives from the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Members reviewed test preparation and scoring information, as well as a number of Praxis II tests, reaching consensus on the choices of the assessments in the attached spreadsheet. Scores meeting the requirement to be above the 25th percentile are also listed for each test. The test choices are shown in the spreadsheet attached to this letter.

Grimes State Office Building - 400 E 14th St - Des Moines IA 50319-0146

PHONE (515) 281-5294 FAX (515) 242-5988

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It is important to note that candidates will be required to take two tests, one in pedagogy and one in content. No candidates are required to take more than two tests. The pedagogy test is the ETS Principles of Learning and Teaching test. There are four grade level versions of the test. Candidates will choose the grade level most appropriate for their preparation level. Candidates will choose a content test according to their major content area of preparation for licensure. Candidates adding endorsements will not be tested on additional endorsements. For instance, an elementary education major adding a special education endorsement will take the appropriate PLT pedagogy assessment and the 0014/5014 Elementary Education: Content Knowledge assessment. This candidate will not take a test in special education content.

Candidates from outside of Iowa graduating after January 1, 2013 requesting Iowa licensure will also be subject to these requirements.

The Praxis II tests outlined here will serve to meet the immediate need of the statutory changes. The legislature also stated a performance assessment can be used to meet this requirement. Further meetings of IDE, BOEE and IACTE will begin in November, 2012 to find a long term solution, which could be a continuation of the present Praxis II assessments, or which may take the form of a performance assessment.

Please address questions to Dr. Larry Bice in the Department of Education, or Joanne Tubbs in the Board of Educational Examiners. Dr. Bice can be reached at 515-725-0101 or larry.bice@iowa.edu. Ms. Tubbs can be reached at 515-281-3511 or joanne.tubbs@iowa.gov.