



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BRAD A. BUCK, DIRECTOR

DATE: February 20, 2014

TO: Education Stakeholders, Institutes of Higher Education

FROM: Brad A. Buck, Director

SUBJECT: Change to Passing Score, Praxis II Math Content Test

The Iowa Department of Education is mandated to set the required passing scores for program completion assessments at the first score above the 25th percentile. This is done by examining national data on test score distributions. When a new (regenerated) test is introduced, there is no national score data available. In these situations, ETS recommends a passing score established through a national score setting process. Iowa, like all other states using Praxis tests, has chosen to use the ETS recommended scores until national score data are available.

When the content assessment for 5-12 mathematics was regenerated this year (the new test is Praxis II: 5161 Mathematics Content Knowledge), we used the ETS recommended score of 160. Since the test was adopted, we have monitored national score data. While this test has not yet been offered for a year, the examinee population is large enough to inform an adjustment to the Iowa required score.

After 1346 examinees nationally attempted the Praxis II: 5161 Mathematics Content Knowledge test, the recommended score of 160 falls at the 67th percentile. A score of 133 falls at the 25th percentile. We are changing the state mandated required score for Praxis II: 5161 Mathematics Content Test to 134, which is the first score above the 25th percentile score. This change is effective immediately.

We will examine the required score again in July, 2014, as we will the required scores for all tests. Based on national data over the past three years (or as many years as data is available), adjustments will be made as necessary. Any changes to state required scores will be communicated to educator preparation programs and will also be posted on the Department of Education website.

On behalf of the Iowa Department of Education, thank you for your dedication and service to Iowa's students and schools.