

Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality
Email Update
April 1, 2016

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BASIC SKILLS POLICY:

At the March 15, 2016 PACTE Conference, Deputy Secretary Wil Del Pilar announced that candidates may combine individual tests from different vendors to meet the basic skills requirement. The policy is attached to this email. Please share this information with your faculty and candidates.

PEARSON REGIONAL MEETINGS:

In consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson will be hosting three regional meetings titled “PECT - Development and Redesign – Feedback from the Field.”

Meetings will be held:

- Monday, April 18th, 12:30-3:30, PaTTAN – Pittsburgh
- Wednesday, April 20th, 9:00-12:00, PaTTAN – Harrisburg
- Thursday, April 21st, 9:00-12:00, PaTTAN - King of Prussia

We are encouraging education deans and department heads, licensing advisors, and content faculty to attend one of the regional meetings. These facilitated sessions will include a description of how the tests were developed and engage participants in discussions about format of the assessments, available test preparation materials, and test administration activities.

To help with planning, we ask you identify which of the three sessions you will be attending by completing a [registration form](#) at the following link: <http://goo.gl/forms/YKvQVxyiDr>. If you have difficulty accessing the registration form, please RSVP to Kellie Crawford at kellie.crawford@pearson.com with your preferred location. Additional logistical details will follow.

PROJECT MAX SPRING SYMPOSIUM:

The Department and the Bureau of Special Education in collaboration with their Institutions of Higher Education partners invite you to their 2016 Project Max Spring Symposium. Project Max is an evidenced-based professional development effort funded

by an OSEP State Professional Development Grant. The purpose of Project MAX is to increase the capacity of Pennsylvania schools to provide all students, including those with complex instructional needs with maximum access to and learning of the general education curriculum and the Pennsylvania Core Standards.

The Spring Symposium will feature implementation results from the project's first focus group that included both general and special education faculty from five universities. Faculty will present how they adopted, adapted, and infused Project MAX professional development materials into courses and across certification programs. Special education faculty from across the commonwealth are invited to learn how the IHE partners maximized Project MAX for the advancement of their pre-service candidates.

The Symposium will be held on May 26, 2016 at the Harrisburg PaTTAN from 8:30am-3:00pm. Please see the attached flyer for the Symposium agenda and registration information.