

Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality
Email Update
December 29, 2016

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IN STATE APPLICANTS ADDING A TEST ONLY SUBJECT ON THE SAME APPLICATION

PDE has received many questions about in-state candidates adding a second subject area through testing only onto their initial application. This policy was announced at PAC-TE in October and sent out to the field in November. We are providing you with more detail about the policy below.

Effective January 1, 2017, in-state applicants may submit one application for the subject area(s) that they have completed approved preparation program(s) and may be issued **one** additional credential from the list below at no additional cost:

- Instructional Add On Subject*
- Program Specialist ESL*
- Endorsement Subject Areas*

* must meet all requirements

Instructions for Applying in TIMS

- The applicant must only apply for the subject area(s) the approved program provider will recommend for certification.
- The approved program provider must enter a note in the comments section simply alerting PDE staff that the applicant wants to add an area to the in-state application:
 - o If the area being added is a test only Add-On, the note only needs to state that they qualify for the Add-On.
 - o If the area being added is for ESL or an Endorsement, the note must contain a full statement recommending the applicant for that credential subject area.
- The required test must be on file or PDE will not approve the Add-On subject area and a separate application and fee must be submitted once the test is on file.

- Additional areas require a separate application and fee in TIMS.

FIELD AND STUDENT TEACHING REQUIREMENTS FOR DUAL MAJORS

Candidates seeking dual certification do not need to split their student teaching experience. They should have strong field experiences in one area in which they are seeking certification and complete a student teaching experience in the other. This policy applies to dual special education candidates, although we recommend they be placed in a classroom that contains inclusion students with an IEP if at all possible.

PDE ANNUAL 2017 PROPOSED TEACHER SHORTAGE AREA REPORT

PDE is required by the U.S. Department of Education to submit their annual Proposed Teacher Shortage report each December. The report identifies the subjects and local education entities (LEAs) with the most severe teacher shortages in their state. PDE identified ten shortage areas as determined by two measures:

- 1) the numbers of emergency permits issued in 2015-2016 by subject area, and
- 2) the difference between the numbers of new teaching certificates issued in 2015-2016 by subject area and the numbers of teachers across PA working in each subject area and likely to retire soon.

The ten subject shortage areas identified are:

- English as a Second Language PreK-12,
- Fine and Performing Arts PreK-12,
- Foreign Languages PreK-12,
- Hearing Impaired PreK-12,
- Sciences 7-12,
- Mathematics 7-12,
- Special Education PreK-12,
- Speech and Language Impaired PreK-12,
- Visually Impaired PreK-12, and
- Vocational Education 7-12.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with teacher shortages in these ten subject areas were also identified using data on 2015-2016 emergency permits and likely retirements. LEAs were divided into three categories:

- 1) School Districts;
- 2) Area Vocational Technical Schools, Comprehensive Technology Centers, Charter Schools, and Approved Private Schools; and

- 3) Intermediate Units. In each category, LEAs having large numbers and/or large percentages of emergency permits in the ten subject areas were classified as having a potential for teacher shortages. In addition, LEAs having large numbers and/or large percentages of teachers close to retirement in the ten subject areas were classified as having a potential for teacher shortages.

School districts with the greatest need, presented in order, are:

- Philadelphia City SD,
- Pittsburgh SD,
- Hazleton Area SD,
- North Penn SD,
- Council Rock SD, and
- Allentown City SD.

For further information, see the [Proposed Teacher Shortage Area Report](#) found under “Resources” on the [Teachers and Administrators](#) page.

PECT PRACTICE TEST VOUCHERS

The PECT program offers practice tests for each assessment in the program. Practice tests for all modules of an assessment series purchased together are available for \$29.95. Practice tests for individual modules of an assessment are available for \$17.50.

Vouchers are available for purchase by educator preparation programs to provide candidates toward fees for PECT Practice Tests.

Educator preparation programs can purchase Practice Test Vouchers in any quantity using the Practice Test Voucher Order Form, available at [Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests](#).

To order practice test vouchers:

1. Access the [Practice Test Voucher Order Form](#) via the above link.
2. Print the request form.
3. Complete the form, including information for the requester and institution, and the number of vouchers being requested at each price.
4. Attach payment for the total purchase by a) purchase order or b) prepaid check. Visa and Mastercard payments are also accepted. Indicate the purchase order

number or prepaid check number on the Practice Test Voucher Order Form.

5. Mail the completed Practice Test Voucher Order Form and payment to:
Attention: Finance
Evaluation Systems, Pearson
P. O. Box 226
Amherst, MA 01004-0226
OR fax the completed form and payment to (413) 256-7058.
6. Voucher codes will be sent via email to the requester indicated on the Practice Test Voucher Order Form, within 2 weeks after receipt of the completed form and payment or purchase order. Educator preparation programs will be responsible for distributing voucher codes to candidates.

Candidates may apply voucher codes to their purchase of a PECT practice test through their MyAccount on the [PECT program website](#).

For more information about [purchasing vouchers](#), please visit the [PECT program website](#).

PECT TEST PREPARATION WEBINARS

The Evaluation Systems group of Pearson is pleased to invite Pennsylvania educator preparation candidates to participate in a webinar on how to register and prepare for Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests (PECT). Sessions will be held on:

- Monday, February 6, 2017, 10:00 am – 11:00 am
- Thursday, February 9, 2017, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Topics will include:

- How to create your MyAccount and register for a PECT test
- How to read your PECT score report
- What test preparation resources are available
- How to prepare to retake a test

Information about how to access the webinar session of your choice will be posted to the [PECT program website](#). Additional webinar sessions will be held in April 2017.