

Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality

Email Update

January 22, 2016

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CREATIVE MOVEMENT ENDORSEMENT

PDE is pleased to announce the approval of the Creative Movement Endorsement Guidelines. The purpose of the Creative Movement Endorsement is to develop guidelines and competencies to help classroom teachers provide supervision in dance, dance production, creative movement, or guided dance. The Creative Movement Endorsement will also provide teachers with a research-based continuum of strategies to address the learning needs of students involved in collaborative performance opportunities. The guidelines are posted on the PDE website under [Subject Specific Guidelines](#).

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR FACULTY SUPERVISING STUDENT TEACHERS

As the result of recent changes to the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) the Department has been asked whether college faculty supervising student teachers in the PK-12 classrooms will require background checks prior to school visits. While the Department recommends that programs consult with their own legal counsel concerning this issue, it is the Department’s view that faculty supervisors may fall within the CPSL expanded definition of “school employees” required to obtain background checks if such supervisors are determined to have “direct contact with children.” “Direct contact” for these purposes means “care, supervision, guidance or control of children or routine interaction with children.” While it appears that college faculty normally may not appear to provide for the “care, supervision guidance or control” of children, there may be a concern that these supervisors, due to their positions, have “routine interaction” with children. “Routine interaction” means regular and repeated contact that is integral to a person's employment or volunteer responsibilities.

The responsibility to determine whether background checks are required under the CPSL ultimately rests with the program administrators. However, school districts may reach their own conclusion as to whether background checks are required and may insist on reviewing clearances prior to school visits. Programs, in consultation with their legal counsel, should consider obtaining background checks to avoid any disruption to a supervisory school visit and to allay district concerns.

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SCHOOL NURSE DEGREE REQUIREMENT CLARIFICATION

PDE would like to clarify the degree needed for certification of a school nurse. Chapter 49 regulation states that a candidate must hold a BS or BA degree for certification purposes. There is no specific reference in certification regulation to a requirement for a specific bachelor's degree for school nurses. The degree can be in any field. A license to practice as a registered nurse is required and pursuing a BSN may be in the best interests of the candidate who already possesses nursing credits from their licensing courses.

CORE AND PAPA PASS RATE COMPARISON

Several people ask PDE about the number of candidates taking the CORE and the PAPA basic skills assessments. In response to the requests, we will provide the number of candidates taking both assessments as well as the passing rates on a regular basis.

Month	Test	# Takers	% Pass	Test	# Takers	% Pass
November	PAPA Math	308	50%	CORE Math	427	54.14%
	PAPA Reading	287	45%	CORE Reading	353	81.99%
	PAPA Writing	277	47%	CORE Writing	370	62.70%
December	PAPA Math	279	42%	CORE Math	429	50.50%
	PAPA Reading	239	43%	CORE Reading	358	79.80%
	PAPA Writing	182	46%	CORE Writing	304	64.14%

BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPRING 2016 TEST PREP PROGRAMS

The Butler County Community College (BCCC) has announced its spring 2016 classes and tutoring offerings. BCCC offers test preparation for the following assessments:

- Pearson PAPA Basic Skills Assessment
- ETS CORE Basic Skills Assessment
- PECT PreK-4 Assessment
- PECT Special Education PK-8
- PECT Special Education 7-12
- Praxis Middle Level:
 - ✓ Core
 - ✓ All Subject Areas
- PRAXIS II New Mathematics Content Knowledge Test

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Online prep classes run February 24, 2016 – April 6, 2016. One-on-one tutoring is available for those who have attempted one or more assessments without passing. For more information, visit the BCCC website at www.passpraxis.com.

**DISCOVERY EDUCATION: A Forum for Superintendents & Curriculum Leaders:
Explore Best Practices in Equity and Excellence**

Today's superintendents and district leaders face increasing pressure to prepare every student for college and career readiness amid rapid changes in standards, curriculum, assessment and accountability. How do you ensure equitable teaching practices? How do you ensure every student learns and thrives? How do you implement new standards, curriculum and assessments with fidelity? How do you transition to digital with scant resources and reticent adapters?

To help answer these questions, Discovery Education is excited to announce Powerful Practices: The Instructional Leadership Experience, a series of in-person events hosted this winter in Pennsylvania, Tennessee and California.

- Hear renowned experts discuss equitable and effective strategies that yield results.
- Engage in conversations about personalized learning, formative assessment, student engagement, and the culturally responsive classroom.
- Roll up your sleeves and dive into interactive hands-on learning.
- Experience the technology-enriched classroom.

Exchange ideas with other district leaders and learn about instructional resources and practices that can support your teachers in making the difference.

To learn more about the Powerful Practices series visit the [Discovery Education website](#).