

Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality
Email Update
July 31, 2015

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SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST QUESTIONS

PDE has received many questions regarding the new Speech and Language Pathologist Educational Specialist certificate. We are clarifying the differences between the instructional and education specialist certificates and who is eligible to earn them below.

As you are aware, PDE has provided a route for licensed speech and language pathologists to provide school-based speech therapy services without reducing the quality of services. These individuals have earned either a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree as a Speech and Language Pathologist and did not want the added expense or time commitment required to complete the Speech and Language Impaired Instructional Certificate program. The educational specialist may not teach as they have not completed an instructional program. To work in schools the speech and language pathologist must hold either a Pennsylvania Department of State or ASHA CCC license.

PSHA has posted the PDE informational webinar for the instructional and education specialist certificates on their website at www.psha.org as a resource for clinicians as well as administrators.

Please Note: Instructional certificate holders do NOT need the new certificate and may not apply.

DUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION PK-8 AND 7-12 CERTIFICATIONS

Candidates seeking certification in both Special Education PK-8 and 7-12 may do so by taking one of the special education assessments. PDE understands there is an overlap of questions within the assessment and will accept passing of one of the assessments as demonstrating knowledge in both certificate areas.

Candidates seeking both special education certificates must complete the following:

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- Hold the appropriate subject matter certificates
- Complete both the Special Education PK-8 and 7-12 programs. Please note that there is the equivalent of a one course difference between the two certificates, Secondary Transitions.
- Complete course work assignments that cover both grade spans.
- Participate in field experiences and/or student teaching that includes both certificate grade spans
- Pass either the SPED PK-8 or 7-12 test

Candidates will apply for the certificates through TIMS. Program providers will assure that the candidates meet the above requirements except for testing. PDE will process the application once the applicant passes the required test.

HOUSE BILL 168 IMPLEMENTATION DATE REMINDER

PDE is reminding all program providers that as of August 1, 2015, candidates must take and successfully pass the basic skills assessment prior to entry into a baccalaureate teacher preparation program.

Programs may access the Entry Into Certification Programs Guidelines document at <http://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Teachers-Administrators/Certification%20Preparation%20Programs/Framework%20Guidelines%20and%20Rubrics/Entry%20into%20Certification%20Programs%20Guidelines.pdf> .

A set of FAQs has been developed based on the entry guidelines and can be located at <http://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Teachers-Administrators/Certification%20Preparation%20Programs/Framework%20Guidelines%20and%20Rubrics/Act%20168%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf> .

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CORE AND PAPA COMPARISON

PDE has been asked many times about the number of candidates taking the CORE versus the PAPA basic skills assessment. In response to the requests, we will be providing to you on a monthly basis the number of candidates taking both assessments as well as the passing rates. We hope you find this data informative.

Month	Test	# of Takers	% Pass	Test	# of Takers	% Pass
APRIL	PAPA: Mathematics	301	53.16%	Core Math	294	39.77%
	PAPA: Reading	275	50.91%	Core Reading	313	73.47%
	PAPA: Writing	255	46.67%	Core Writing	532	54.63%
MAY	PAPA: Mathematics	324	45.37%	Core Math	637	41.29%
	PAPA: Reading	303	48.84%	Core Reading	543	84.35%
	PAPA: Writing	305	49.18%	Core Writing	597	55.44%
JUNE	PAPA: Mathematics	278	45.32%	Core Math	535	41.31%
	PAPA: Reading	281	51.96%	Core Reading	448	75.00%
	PAPA: Writing	89	43.82%	Core Writing	492	52.64%