

Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality
Email Update
May 22, 2015

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BASIC SKILLS GPA CHART

We would like to remind our program providers that there is not a GPA Comparability Chart for the basic skills tests. Candidates can take advantage of the composite score option as posted on our website at <http://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Teachers-Administrators/Certifications/Certification%20Testing/Certification%20Testing%20and%20Scores.pdf>.

DOWNLOADING PDE DOCUMENTS TO PROGRAM PROVIDER WEBSITES

Please do not download PDE documents onto your website. Provide a link to PDE documents to ensure your candidates receive the most current information on testing and certification. We have found documents are downloaded and not replaced by the provider when PDE releases a new revised document.

CERTIFICATION EXPEDITES

PDE is currently approving applications in a timely fashion. Please request an expedite when you as the provider have caused a delay or when a verified offer is pending from a Pennsylvania school. Advise candidates that a Pennsylvania public PK-12 LEA may request an expedite when a job offer is pending. Contact Certification Services if you have questions.

PRE K-4 PRACTICE TEST

The Evaluation Systems group of Pearson is pleased to announce that new practice tests for the PECT PreK–4 and Special Education 7–12 tests are now available for purchase via the PECT website at www.pa.nesinc.com. These new practice tests are offered in addition to, and do not replace, the full-length practice tests for each test field that are available on the PECT website for no charge.

A new practice test for Special Education PreK–8 is currently in development and will be available later this summer.

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The new practice tests are stand-alone, full-length, computer-based, practice tests containing sample test questions with rationales. Candidates receive comprehensive performance feedback including the number and percentage of questions answered correctly for each objective, their performance on each multiple-choice question (correct or incorrect), the correct response for each question, and the rationale for the correct response.

You may go to the PECT website at www.pa.nesinc.com for more information or to purchase a practice test. Select "Prepare," then select a test from the drop-down menu to see all preparation materials available for that specific test.

STUDENT TEACHING FOR CANDIDATES SEEKING A SECOND CERTIFICATE

Candidates seeking a second certificate through a certification program must complete a student teaching experience in the new certification area sought to demonstrate meeting the competencies. The program provider may modify the length of the experience. The experience must be long enough for the candidate to be evaluated twice using the PDE 430 form.

Please note: You must complete a PDE 430 form at least twice during the student teaching/practicum/internship experience regardless of the certificate program.

MAJOR REVIEW INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR FOR REVIEWERS

PDE is still in need of volunteers to serve as Major Review program reviewers. An excel spreadsheet collection tool will be used to review and approve our teacher certification preparation programs. The reviews are designed to be completed electronically and on your own personal computer. The collection tool is an excel spreadsheet that includes both the program information as well as the review rubric and reviewer assessment cells. Reviewers are compensated for their reviews. The first round of Major Reviews will begin in the early fall of 2015.

We are asking interested reviewers to contact Charles Goulding at cgoulding@pa.gov or at 717-772-3569. PDE has recorded a webinar that explains the review process and the reviewer's responsibilities. The webinar can be found at: <http://www.education.pa.gov>.

Follow these steps to view the webinar:

- Under Teacher and Administrators at the top of the page click on Certification Preparation from the drop down
- Scroll down and click on the Major Review Training for Reviewers (2015) link
- Click on ok, this will open a new window
- On the Blackboard Collaborate web page fill in your email and full name

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- Click play
- On top of the next page click on “Clicking on this link”
- You will need to click open; this will open a security warning
- Check “I accept the risk and want to run this application”
- Click run
- The webinar will now be available to view