

Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality
Email Update
November 21, 2016

Program Review Templates1
Composite Score Calculator.....1
ETS Interactive Practice Tests2
Support the Educational Technology in Teacher Preparation Challenge2
Certification Application Fee Increase3
Act 48 Changes.....3

PROGRAM REVIEW TEMPLATES

PDE has posted a template of both the Initial and Major Review templates on the PDE website. The templates include all of the currently collected data points and the disclaimer, “This Application is for Informational Purposes Only”. This is to remind you **not to** download, complete and submit the template. The templates can be found under Resources on the [Certification Preparation](#) page.

Important: Program providers must submit the official excel applications found in the Share-Point system.

COMPOSITE SCORE CALCULATOR

PDE has received questions about the basic skills calculator in regards to the ACT. When PDE first approved the ACT as a means of meeting the basic skills requirement, the modules that were accepted for approval by the Secretary were Math, and the **combined** Reading/Writing module. Although the ACT offered a Reading subtest, it was not and will not be accepted as an approved assessment on any ACT test taken before September 2016.

The ACT changed its scoring method in 2016, which decoupled the reading and writing modules. As a result, PDE has now approved the new reading, writing and math subtests taken in the new format, September 2016 and beyond, as a basic skills test.

Candidates and faculty must remember to select the date the ACT math was taken as the scoring changed after September 1, 2016.

Please note: Program providers must continue to download the scores from ACT or SAT to verify their authenticity. The calculator is simply a tool to assist candidates and providers to determine if they will meet the required basic skills testing scores. It is not an official document to demonstrate passing. **The provider must continue to view the official results from the testing company.**

The calculator and score requirements can be found on the [Certification Testing](#) page.

ETS INTERACTIVE PRACTICE TESTS

All Praxis tests now offer a fee based Interactive Practice Test (IPT) for candidates to use in preparation before sitting for the official assessment. The IPT provides candidates hands-on experience with different sample question types used on the actual tests. Candidates can view their scores and get detailed explanations of correct answers for every practice question. The purchase of the IPT is valid for 90 days or 10 uses (whichever comes first).

The IPT provides:

- easy online practice in a simulated test environment,
- authentic sample test questions that will help candidates prepare for test day,
- an optional test timer providing practice in a timed setting,
- practice results for each category of content, and
- detailed explanations for correct answers to the practice questions.

ETS has released a second IPT test for 25 content areas. For more information, visit the [ETS website](#).

SUPPORT THE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHER PREPARATION CHALLENGE!

PDE has a strong commitment to using various forms of educational technology in our teacher preparation programs. The Framework Guidelines include competencies on technology. Our Initial and Major Reviews include data points about the types of technology used by both the faculty and candidate during their preparation, field and student teaching experiences.

The State Educational Technology Director's Association (SETDA) at the US Department of Education, in partnership with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) urges our higher education partners to take the Educational Technology in Teacher Preparation Challenge by publicly committing to the four principles of educational technology in teacher preparation.

The Office of Educational Technology welcomes educator preparation programs to further their mission to prepare pre-service educators for the meaningful use of technology as a tool to support student learning. In the National Educational Technology Plan (NETP), the groundwork was laid for the creation of four key principles for the use of educational technology in teacher preparation:

- Focus on the active use of technology to enable learning and teaching through creation, production, and problem solving.
- Build sustainable, program-wide systems of professional learning for higher education instructors to strengthen and continually refresh capacity to use

- technological tools to enable transformative learning and teaching
- Ensure pre-service teacher experiences with educational technology are program-deep and program-wide rather than one-off courses separate from methods courses.
- Align efforts with research-based standards, frameworks, and credentials recognized across the field.

Educator preparation programs that publicly commit to the four principles will be eligible to receive an invitation to the Innovators' Briefing in Washington, D.C., on December 13 and 14, 2016 where multiple stakeholders will convene to advance this work. Space is limited, so be sure to make the commitment soon.

For more information and to make the public commitment, visit the [Office of Educational Technology](#) website.

CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FEE INCREASE

The Educator Discipline Fee currently added to all applications for certification has increased to \$100 effective November 1, 2016. The purpose of this fee is to provide for the administration, enforcement, and adjudication of professional discipline by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Professional Standards and Practices Commission. A new combined fee, representing the total application fee inclusive of the Educator Discipline Fee, will be effective for all certification applications filed on or after November 1, 2016, as identified on the fee chart found on [PDE's website](#).

ACT 48 CHANGES

The General Assembly passed legislation that permits a professional educator to carry forward 50 hours of continuing professional education credits into the next compliance period if they were obtained during the final two years of the educator's compliance period and are in excess of the required 180 credit hours for the current compliance period.

If you have any questions related to the application of Act 48 carry over credits, please send your questions to RA-edact48@pa.gov; or if you have questions related to Act 45 carry over credits, please contact Carla Wilson at c-cwilson@pa.gov or call 717.346.7112.