



**TO:** Roger Breed, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Sharon Katt, Administrator, Adult Program Services

**SUBJECT:** Content testing for Nebraska educator certification

**Proposed Board Action:**

Informational presentation only. Board action to approve moving forward with implementation of the testing requirements will be requested at the May 2013 meeting.

**Background Information:**

Nebraska does not require educator preparation candidates or applicants for a Nebraska certificate to pass a content test. NE is currently the only state that does not use a content test as an indicator in the educator preparation process. At the direction of the Commissioner, NDE staff investigated testing options, conducted preliminary work to identify appropriate tests related to Nebraska endorsements, and facilitated discussion related to other implementation details. In March 2013 a group of stakeholders (including teachers, administrators, educator preparation and other higher education faculty, and NDE content consultants) met to review Praxis II test options available through the Educational Testing Service and to make preliminary recommendations for a passing score. At the May meeting, the Board will be asked to approve moving forward with implementation of a content testing requirement.

**Estimated Cost:**

Costs of updating Rules 20, 21, and 23 and staff time for implementation assistance to the institutions. Costs for actual testing will be at candidate expense.

**Supporting Documentation Included:**

Information Regarding Content Testing Implementation

**For Additional Information on this item:**

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(3.20.13)

**March 14 & 15, 2013**

**Facilitated ETS/NDE Score Setting Panels**

Remaining test selections and/or score recommendations for Rule 24 endorsements made by score setting panels for all Administrative endorsements, all Science endorsements, Geography, History, and Social Science endorsements, Elementary, English Language Arts and (Secondary) English endorsements, all Music endorsements, School Librarian, and all Health and Physical Education endorsements.

**August 1, 2013/  
Academic Year 2013-2014**

Institutions are requested to encourage candidates to take the appropriate Praxis II test (NDE will have Tentative Recommended Scores)

**Summer, 2014**

Analysis of NE score data; Final score recommendations made  
Begin NDE Rule revisions—Rules 21, 23, 24

**August 1, 2014/  
Academic Year 2014-2015**

Institutions require candidates to take the appropriate Praxis II test. Candidates must submit evidence that they have taken the test for initial certification, but will not be required to have a passing score to be certified—“hold harmless year”

NDE Rules revised to formalize testing requirements for certification.

**August 1, 2015/  
Academic Year 2015-2016**

Certificate applicants are required to present a passing Praxis II Content Test Score for initial certification or when adding a subject or field endorsement to a current certificate.

(After 2-3 years, score data should be reviewed to see if score adjustments are needed for any endorsement areas.)

- Testing will not be required for Supplemental Endorsements at this time.
- Currently certified teachers will not have to take a content test for recertification.
- NDE will require test scores for initial (first-time) certification, effective 8.1.15.
- Candidates obtaining dual certification (Example: Elementary Education and Special Education)—will have to take Elementary Education and Special Education content tests.
- Currently certified teachers adding an endorsement will be required to take the appropriate content test. (Example: Currently Elementary-endorsed teacher adds a Physical Education endorsement—will be required to take the Physical Education Content Test as of 8.1.15.)
- Out-of-state candidates will have to show evidence they have taken the appropriate content test and received the NE passing score, effective 8.1.15.