



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

FROM: Sharon Katt, Senior Administrator, Adult Program Services

SUBJECT: Educator Basic Skills and Content Testing

Proposed Board Action:

Authorize a plan for implementation of a revised testing requirement for admission to Nebraska educator preparation programs and for educator certification content testing.

Background Information:

The current Pre-Professionals Skills Test (PPST), also known as Praxis I, has been revised by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The new test is the Core Academic Skills for Educators (CASE) test and we plan to fully transition to this test by Fall, 2014, pending revision of 92 NAC 23-Teacher Testing Basic Skills. This test is used to assess basic skills for entry into educator preparation programs. In addition to the basic skills testing requirement, it is proposed that NDE implement a content testing requirement for individuals seeking a Nebraska certificate. With assistance from Nebraska education stakeholders, tests available in the Praxis II series have been reviewed and selected with consideration given to the match to Nebraska endorsements found in 92 NAC 24 - Endorsements. Preliminary recommended passing scores were also proposed during the review and selection process. Full implementation will require revision of 92 NAC 21 - Teacher Certification. The attached timeline provides information regarding the implementation plan for the basic skills and content testing requirements.

Estimated Cost:

Testing costs are a candidate and/or applicant responsibility. Costs to NDE include staff time and revisions to three Rules. Rule revisions are generally estimated to be \$750.00, but these changes will be accomplished along with other necessary changes to the Rules.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Proposed plan for implementation of educator testing requirements
Chart regarding Nebraska endorsements and proposed Praxis II Content Tests

For Additional Information on this item:

Sharon Katt, sharon.katt@nebraska.gov, 402.471.2405; Pat Madsen, pat.madsen@nebraska.gov , 402.471.4863; Kevin Peters, kevin.peters@nebraska.gov, 402.471.0739.

Educator Preparation Testing-Proposed Plan for Implementation

Core Academic Skills for Educators (CASE) (Replaces the PPST/Basic Skills test)	Praxis II – Content Testing (Will be required for certification 9.1.14)
Summer, 2013 Board reviews technical documents regarding a recommended passing score for the 3 components of the CASE test and other policy recommendations (which will be reflected in Rule 23).	Spring, 2013 NDE staff will work with the Educational Testing Service and education stakeholders to finalize test selections and to develop recommended benchmark scores for reference during the implementation phase.
October, 2013 NCTE discusses Rule 23 and prepares recommendation to State Board regarding Rule 23 changes.	August 2013 Selected tests and benchmark scores will be presented to the Board along with an opportunity for the Board to provide input to the recommended interim scores. Board will be asked for discussion/input related to other implementation policy and procedure questions (such as implications of emergency certification needs, expectations for out of state applicants) that will guide development of rule revisions.
November, 2013 Board approves Rule 23 for public hearing	August, 2013 Interim passing score recommendations are communicated to Nebraska institutions.
December, 2013 Public Hearing for Rule 23	Fall, 2013 Institutions will have the option of encouraging candidates to take the recommended tests. Results will inform institutions about their candidate performance and provide information for establishing the official NE passing score.
January, 2014 Board Approval of Rule 23	October, 2013 NCTE discusses Rule 21 and prepares recommendation to State Board regarding Rule 21 changes.
February 1, 2014 Rule 23 to AG/Governor for signature (can take 6-8 months)	December, 2013 Board approves revised Rule 21 for Public Hearing which includes requirements that applicants for certification as of September 1, 2014 take the appropriate content test and that applicants for certification as of September 1, 2015 achieve the NE passing score (which will appear as an Appendix to Rule 21).
September 1, 2014 – CASE test implemented with established passing scores.	January, 2014 Public Hearing for Rule 21
	February, 2014 Board Meeting – Board approval of revised Rule 21.
	February, 2014 Rule 21 to AG/Governor for signature (can take 6-8 months or more)
	September 1, 2014 – Applicants for an initial certificate will be required provide evidence that they have taken the required test.
	October/November 2014 NDE and State Board will review technical reports and state data to determine if adjustments to scores contained in the Rule 21 Appendix are necessary. If so, a Rule 21 revision process will be initiated.
	After two years, score data reviewed and adjustments made to passing scores if necessary.

Rule 24 Endorsement (as of August 1, 2013)	Required Praxis II Content Test (ETS Praxis Website: http://www.ets.org/praxis)
Curriculum Supervisor	No test required
Principal	0411/5411 Educational Leadership Administration and Supervision (ELAS)
Superintendent	6021 School Superintendent Assessment (SSA)
Adapted Physical Education	No test required
Agricultural Education	0700 Agriculture
American Sign Language - subject	No test required
American Sign Language - supplemental	No test required
Anthropology	No test required
Art	0134/5134 Art: Content Knowledge
Assessment Leadership	No test required
Basic Business	0101/5101 Business Education: Content Knowledge
Bilingual Education	No test required
Biology	0235/5235 Biology: Content Knowledge
Business, Marketing, Information Technology (BMIT)	0101/5101 Business Education: Content Knowledge
Career Education	No test required
Chemistry	0245/5245 Chemistry: Content Knowledge
Coaching - supplemental	No test required
Cooperative Education –Diversified Occupations	No test required
Driver Education	No test required
Early Childhood Education	No test required
Early Childhood Education Unified	0021/5021 Education of Young Children
Earth and Space Science	0571/5571 Earth and Space Science: Content Knowledge
Economics	0911 Economics
Elementary Education	0011/5011 EECIA (Elementary Education Curriculum and Instruction Assessment)
English	5039 English Language Arts: Content and Analysis
English as a Second Language	No test required
Family and Consumer Sciences	0121/5121 Family and Consumer Sciences
General Art	0134/5134 Art: Content Knowledge
Geography	0921 Geography
Health Education	0550/5550 Health Education
Health and Physical Education	0856/5856 Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge
Health Occupations	No test required
High Ability Education	No test required
History	0941/5941 World and US History: Content Knowledge
Horticulture Education	No test required
Industrial Technology Education	0051 Technology Education
Information Technology	No test required
Instructional Technology Leadership	No test required

Instrumental Music	0114 Music: Content and Instruction
Journalism and Mass Communications	No test required
Language Arts	5039 English Language Arts: Content and Analysis
Mathematics	0061/5061 Mathematics: Content Knowledge
Middle Grades Education	Testing not required at this time
Music	0114 Music: Content and Instruction
Physical Education	0091/5091 Physical Education: Content Knowledge
Physics	0265/5265 Physics: Content Knowledge
Political Science	0931 Government/Political Science
Preschool Disabilities	No test required
Psychology	0390 Psychology
Reading and Writing	No test required
Reading Specialist	0301/5301 Reading Specialist
Religious Education	No test required
Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC)	No test required
School Counselor	0421/5421 Professional School Counselor
School Librarian	0311/5311 Library Media Specialist
School Psychologist	0401 School Psychologist
Science (<i>formerly Natural Science</i>)	0435/5435 General Science: Content Knowledge
Skilled and Technical Science Education	No test required
Social Science	0081/5081 Social Studies: Content Knowledge
Sociology	0950 Sociology
Special Education: Behaviorally Disordered	No test required
Special Education: Deaf or Hard of Hearing - Field	No test required
Special Education: Deaf or Hard of Hearing - Subject	0272 Special Education: Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students
Special Education: Early Childhood Special Education	0691 Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood Education
Special Education: Learning Disabilities	No test required
Special Education: Mild/Moderate Disabilities	0354/5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications
Special Education: Severe/Multiple Disabilities	No test required
Special Education: Visual Impairment	0282 Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments
Speech	No test required
Speech and Theatre	No test required
Speech-Language Pathologist	0330/5330 Speech-Language Pathology
Theatre	No test required
Vocal Music	0114 Music: Content and Instruction
Vocational Special Needs	No test required
World Language	5174 French: World Language
	5183 German: World Language
	0601 Latin

	5195 Spanish: World Language
Educational Audiologist	No test required
School Nurse	No test required
School Transition Specialist	No test required
Speech Language Technician	No test required
Coaching	No test required

Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year, institutions are encouraged to have candidates take the appropriate content test.

Effective September 1, 2014: All candidates applying for certification will have to provide evidence they have taken the required content test.

Effective September 1, 2015: All candidates applying for certification will have to provide evidence they have taken the required content test and received the required passing score.