



Mississippi Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM

To: School Superintendents
Members, State Board of Education
Members, Certification Commission
District Special Education Directors

From: Cindy Coon, Director *cc*
Office of Educator Licensure

Date: August 24, 2010

RE: New Licensure policies

On August 20, 2010, the State Board of Education granted approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process for the following proposed new policies:

1. Five New Praxis Tests and Passing Scores – Business Education, French, Spanish, German and Special Education – these tests will replace the current tests
2. New Five-Year Renewable License on the Bachelor's level for Speech/Language Teacher with license endorsement 216 (limited to articulation therapy only)
3. New Praxis test for Braille Competency and Passing Score – state law now requires teachers of visually impaired students to show competency in Braille

Comments regarding either document must be in writing and received in the Office of Educator Licensure no later than September 30, 2010. You may submit your comments by email to ccoon@mde.k12.ms.us, or faxed to (601)359-2778, or submitted to the mailing address below. Whichever method you choose, please submit your comments only once. All written comments will be submitted to the State Board of Education at their next scheduled meeting.

If you have questions regarding this proposed policy, please contact the Office of Educator Licensure at 601-359-3483.

"Quality Education for Every Child"

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OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Summary of State Board of Education Items
August 19-20, 2010

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

35. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process:
To Approve Five New Praxis Tests and Passing Scores as Recommended
by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification
and Licensure

Specifications:

On July 9, 2010, the Certification Commission voted to approve the recommendation by a Commission subcommittee for five new Praxis tests and passing scores. The following five Praxis tests are tests that have been regenerated by Educational Testing Services and will replace the currently approved tests in these subject areas:

Special Education: Core Knowledge and Application (test code 0354) will replace current tests 0352 and 0353 for K-12 Mild/Moderate Special Education. The recommended passing score for the 0354 is 142.

Business Education (test code 0101) will replace the current Business Education test 0100 for Business 7-12 licensure in both traditional and alternate route certification. The recommended passing score is 148.

Spanish: World Language (test code 0195) will replace the current Spanish language test 0192 for Spanish certification in both traditional teacher education and alternate route licensure. The recommended passing score is 160

French: World Language (test code 0174) will replace the current French language test 0171 for French certification in both traditional teacher education and alternate route licensure. The recommended passing score is 153.

German: World Language (test 0183) will replace the current German language test 0182 for German certification in both traditional teacher education and alternate route licensure. The recommended passing score is 154.

Backup material attached

Recommendation: Approval

Below is a listing of the Praxis II qualifying score recommendations with rationale from the meeting conducted on April 2, 2010 with the Ad Hoc committee of the licensure commission.

Special Education: Core Knowledge and Application (0354)

Score Recommendation: Standards Setting Study Recommendation - 142

Statements of Rationale:

1. New test that has not been administered. Therefore, there are no state specific/national data available to base projected pass rate.
2. Recommend review of proposed score to consider adjusting based upon state specific performance/national data in one year.
3. This is an area where the supply/pool of applicants is not sufficient and is hard to staff in the state of MS.

Business Education (0101)

Score Recommendation: Standards Setting Study Recommendation - 148

Statements of Rationale:

1. New test that has not been administered. Therefore, there are no state specific/national data available to base projected pass rate.
2. Recommend review of proposed score to consider adjusting based upon state specific performance/national data in one year.
3. This is an area where there is a sufficient supply of applicants in the state of MS.

Spanish: World Language (0195)

Score Recommendation: Standards Setting Study Recommendation - 160

Statements of Rationale:

1. New test that has not been administered. Therefore, there are no state specific/national data available to base projected pass rate.

2. Recommend review of proposed score to consider adjusting based upon state specific performance/national data in one year.
3. This is an area where the supply/pool of applicants is not sufficient and is hard to staff in the state of MS.

French: World Language (0174)

Score Recommendation: Standards Setting Study Recommendation - 153

Statements of Rationale:

1. New test that has not been administered. Therefore, there are no state specific/national data available to base projected pass rate.
2. Recommend review of proposed score to consider adjusting based upon state specific performance/national data in one year.
3. This is an area where the supply/pool of applicants is not sufficient and is hard to staff in the state of MS.

German: World Language (0183)

Score Recommendation: Standards Setting Study Recommendation - 154

Statements of Rationale:

1. New test that has not been administered. Therefore, there are no state specific/national data available to base projected pass rate.
2. Recommend review of proposed score to consider adjusting based upon state specific performance/national data in one year.
3. This is an area where the supply/pool of applicants is not sufficient and is hard to staff in the state of MS.

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