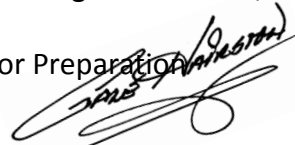


To: Candidates, Parents, and Educator Preparation Program Advisors, Faculty, and Leaders
Topic: Missouri Content Assessments
From: Gale "Hap" Hairston, Ed.D. – Director, Educator Preparation
Date: Wednesday – August 19, 2015



The purpose of this memo is to update students, parents, and educator preparation programs on changes in the Missouri Content Assessments beginning on Monday, August 31, 2015.

Missouri Qualifying Scores for 2015-2016: The Missouri Qualifying Scores (MQS) for each content assessment remains at 220.

Early Childhood Assessments: Candidates working for certification in Early Childhood and/or Early Childhood Special Education are only required to have passed either the Praxis II “Education of Young Children” (Codes 0021/0521) or “Special Education: Preschool Early Childhood” (Codes 0691/5691) or the new Missouri Content Assessment “Early Childhood Education” (Code 064) or “Early Childhood Special Education” (Code 049). Candidates wanting to use their Praxis II results must complete their programs on or before December 31, 2016.

Although the passing of additional assessments is not required, the Department encourages candidates to pass the Elementary Multi-Content Assessments to demonstrate their competency in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies should a school district choose to employ them to teach in Grades 1-3.

The Department will be working with PK-12 schools, educator preparation programs, and professional associations to review options related to content competency appropriate for early childhood and early childhood special education. The goal is to have completed this work before fall 2017.

Elementary Mathematics Specialist: The Department has been working with PK-12 schools, mathematics specialists, educator preparation programs, and professional associations to develop a new assessment of certification as an Elementary Mathematics Specialist (Grades 1-6). The new test Elementary Mathematics Specialist (065) will be available on Monday, August 31. Previously, candidates for this certification were taking the Praxis II Middle School Mathematics (0069 – MQS of 158) or the Missouri Content Assessment for Middle School Education: Middle School Mathematics (012) with the MQS of 220. The State Board of Education will be setting the MQS when they meet on September 14-15, 2015.

School Psychologist: The Department has been working with PK-12 schools, school psychologists, educator preparation programs, and professional associations to revise the assessment for certification as a School Psychologist. The revised test will be available on Monday, September 28. Previously, candidates for this certification were taking the Praxis II School Psychologist (0401 – MQS of 157) or the Missouri Content Assessment – School Psychologist (057) with the MQS of 220. The State Board of Education will be setting the MQS

when they meet on September 14-15, 2015. The current assessment will enter a blackout period from August 31 to September 27. Candidates will be able to register for the revised School Psychologist assessment during the blackout period.

State Board of Education Meetings in June and August 2015: The State Board of Education received reports from the Department on the first year using the Missouri Content Assessments. Based on recommendations from the Missouri Advisory Committee for the Certification of Educators (MACCE), the Missouri Advisory Board for Educator Preparation Programs (MABEP), and discussions that occurred during a joint meeting of the State Board of Education and Coordinating Board for Higher Education, the Department announced the following changes during last week’s State Board of Education meeting:

- Changes in Seven Test Titles – An adjustment is being made to the structure of seven (7) assessments that includes increased testing time and a reduction of 80 to 64 test items. The new assessment structure will be available beginning on Monday, September 28, 2015 for the following seven (7) assessments:

Middle School Education
Mathematics (012)
Science (013)
Social Studies (014)

Secondary Education
Biology (016)
Chemistry (018)
Mathematics (023)
Physics (024)

- An analysis of the performance of candidates who previously failed these seven (7) assessments will be conducted to determine if the new structure would have an impact on the results.
- Sufficient time must be given to complete the analysis and adjustments described above. As soon as this is complete, the Department will provide detailed communication to the candidates and all preparation programs.
- Bias Review Committee (BRC) – Bias Review Committees were convened to review the Elementary Multi-Content Assessments (English/Language Arts (007), Mathematics (008), Science (009), and Social Studies (010)) and the Building Level Administrator assessment (058). The committee of PK-12 schools and educator preparation programs report was presented. The report did not have any impact upon candidate scores.
- Content Advisory Committee (CAC) – Several Content Advisory Committees will be working this fall to correlate the Missouri Learning Standards and national standards with the Frameworks and Competencies for the following 12 assessments:
 - Middle School Education – Mathematics, Science, and Social Science
 - Secondary School – Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics
 - Secondary Social Science – Political Science, United States and World History
 - Secondary Unified Science – Chemistry and Physics
 - Mild-Moderate Middle/Secondary Multi-Content – Mathematics.

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