

To: Students, Parents, and Faculty, Staff, Leaders of Educator Preparation Services
Topic: Update: Missouri Content Assessments
From: Gale "Hap" Hairston, Ed.D. – Director, Educator Preparation
Date: Monday, June 22, 2015



The State Board of Education met on Tuesday, June 16 to discuss recommendations regarding the Missouri Content Assessments. While implementing the changes outlined below, the Missouri Qualifying Scores approved in December 2014 will remain in place. Board members strongly supported setting high expectations for content knowledge before entering the classroom.

Based on feedback from members of the Missouri Advisory Board for Educator Preparation (MABEP), the Missouri Advisory Council on the Certification of Educators (MACCE) and the Missouri Technical Advisory Committee (MoTAC), the Department will be implementing the following changes:

- Fifteen minutes will be added to the test time for these assessments: Middle School – Mathematics, Science, Social Science and Secondary – Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics. The Department will work with the test vendor to make these changes and communicate the timeline for implementation.
- For those same assessments, the number of test items will be reduced from 80 to 64 scorable items. The Department will work with the test vendor to make these changes and communicate the timeline for implementation.
- The Department will reconvene Content Advisory Committees for these assessments: Middle School – Mathematics, Science, and Social Science; Secondary – Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Social Sciences (Political Science, United States History, World History). The process for review will remain the same as summer 2014. The Content Advisory Committees will be asked to reconfirm the alignment of the framework and test items of these assessments to Missouri Learning Standards and national standards.
- The Department will reconvene a Bias Review Committee for these tests: Building Level Administration and Elementary Multi-Content Assessments – English Language, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. As with the first bias review, the Bias Review Committee will be asked to review these assessments for items that would disadvantage particular groups of candidates.

The Department is finalizing a comprehensive work plan including identifying dates and recruiting committee members to serve on the Content Advisory Committees and the Bias Review Committee. Updates will provide information on planning and completing the various tasks. The Department will be asking for assistance in recruiting PK-12 and college/university educators to serve on the Bias Review and Content Advisory Committees. Questions and/or requests for additional information should be directed to Gale Hairston at 573-751-1668 or Gale.Hairston@dese.mo.gov.