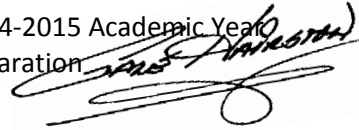


To: Educator Preparation Students and Parents
Topic: Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments for the 2014-2015 Academic Year
From: Gale "Hap" Hairston, Ed.D. – Director, Educator Preparation
Date: Tuesday – August 19, 2014



The Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments (MEGA) is a comprehensive approach to assess the pre-professional development of students working for educator certification in Missouri. These assessments provide a common, statewide foundation of content knowledge, professional practice, and collective agreement on “what it takes to be an effective educator.” While the number and cost of these assessments have increased, the State Board of Education fully understands the implications and challenges associated with developing quality educators for schools in Missouri. The assessments are spaced at different transition points throughout the preparation program. These assessments are an investment in your development and are part of your commitment to becoming a Missouri educator.

The following information focuses on the Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments for 2014-2015.

Please review and don't hesitate to share any questions with your educator preparation program and/or the Office of Educator Quality. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section can be found at the end of this memo.

Missouri Educator Profile (MEP) – Test Fee \$22: The Missouri Educator Profile is an assessment designed to measure a person's work styles as they relate to “effective educators” in Missouri. This required assessment is completed before or immediately after being accepted into an educator preparation program. Students complete the MEP online and receive a score report that compares their work styles to effective educators working in their selected grade levels. This score report is reviewed by the student and shared with their preparation program advisor(s). The final three pages give the student and advisor an opportunity to develop an improvement plan. Students have the option to take the MEP again at the conclusion of their program to demonstrate their growth.

Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA) – Test Fee \$49: The Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA) replaced the CollegeBASE in September 2013. This computer-based assessment includes subtests in English, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. This test is typically taken during the second year of the educator preparation program. Students must pass all five subtests before they can be formally admitted to an undergraduate educator preparation program. Candidates who successfully passed all sections of their CollegeBASE assessment may use those scores until December 31, 2016.

Missouri Content Assessments – Test fees Range from \$77 to \$165: This new series of exit exams must be passed by students for all areas of certification they are seeking. These computer-based assessments are aligned with state and national standards. Students typically take these assessments toward the end of the third year in the program. Many programs require the passage of the appropriate Missouri Content Assessment(s) prior to student teaching. The Missouri Content Assessments replace the Praxis II Content Assessments beginning on September 2, 2014. Students who have passed the Praxis II

Content Assessment on or before August 31, 2014, will be allowed to use their score until December 31, 2016. They must have completed their preparation program by December 31, 2016, as well.

Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment (MoPTA): Educator preparation programs have the option to require candidates to complete and pass the MoPTA during the 2014-2015 school year. There is no additional cost to students and/or educator preparation programs for using the MoPTA.

If you have any questions and/or need any additional information about MEGA, please email the Office of Educator Preparation at EQPrep@dese.mo.gov.

Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments (MEGA) Summary for 2014-2015			
When	Name of the Assessment	Cost	Date Available
Prior to or at Entry	Missouri Educator Profile	\$22.00	Currently Available
Entry	Missouri General Education Assessment (Replaced the CollegeBASE)	\$49.00 Complete \$25.00 Per Subtest for Retakes	
Prior to or During Student Teaching	Missouri Content Area Assessments (Some content areas require multiple assessments.) (Replaces the Praxis II Series)	Ranges from \$77.00 to \$165.00 Additional Fees for Retaking Subtests	Begins September 2014
During Student Teaching	Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment (Optional Use by Educator Preparation Program)	No Cost	Currently Available

Frequently Asked Questions:

Missouri Educator Profile (MEP)

- Q. Who sees the results of my Missouri Educator Profile?
 - A. *You, the student, will see your results, and your results will be sent to the college(s) or university(ies) that you have selected. It is strongly recommended that you meet with your advisor and go over your results.*
- Q. Will future employers have access to MEP scores?
 - A. *No. School districts will not have access to the MEP scores. It is the students' decision with whom they share their MEP scores.*
- Q. Last year, it was stated that students had to take the MEP twice. Is that still true?
 - A. *No. You are required to take the MEP at the entry of your educator preparation program. Although it is not a state requirement, some preparation programs may choose to have you complete the MEP immediately preceding your last field and/or clinical experience. You are also welcome to complete a second MEP if you wish.*

- Q. The MEP compares my scores to “effective” Missouri educators. Who are they?
 - A. *The normative group was made up of educators (teachers of all grade levels, counselors, librarians, and school leaders) who were nominees and teachers of the year, former Select Teachers As Regional Resources (STARR) teachers, National Board teachers, members of the Missouri Council of School Administrators (MCSA) and Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL), and those in effective schools shown by growth.*
- Q. I understand that the MEP is used for other certification areas. Is that true?
 - A. *No. The MEP helps us to understand the fit between a candidate’s work styles and those exhibited by effective educators. It is not based on the certification area in which you teach.*
- Q. Where do I go to take the MEP?
 - A. *The MEP is an internet-based survey. You may complete it from any computer connected to the internet.*
- Q. What is the passing score on the MEP?
 - A. *There is not a passing score. This is an assessment of work style preferences used to support the development of effective educator work styles.*

Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA)

- Q. I passed four of the five CollegeBASE subtests. Do I have to take the complete MoGEA?
 - A. *Yes. Candidates who have not passed the complete CollegeBASE assessment, which includes all subtests, will have to pass the new Missouri General Education Assessment that began on September 23, 2013.*
- Q. I passed all five subtests of the CollegeBASE. Will my scores expire? If so, when?
 - A. *If you have passed all five subtests, your scores will be valid until December 31, 2016, and will count towards the completion of your educator preparation program.*
- Q. Are you allowed to take breaks while taking this assessment?
 - A. *Starting September 2, 2014, there will be two (2) 15-minute breaks built in for those who are taking the complete MoGEA. This includes all five (5) subtests. If you have registered to take a test prior to September 2, you may cancel your registration and re-register for a date after September 2, 2014.*
- Q. How soon will I receive my score report?
 - A. *MEGA Score Report Dates are provided at www.mo.nesinc.com.*
- Q. How do I find out the passing scores on each of the subtests?
 - A. *Your dean and or unit leader at your college/university will have this information.*
- Q. Will preparation programs be changing their passing scores for 2014-2015?
 - A. *Educator preparation programs were given the option to change their selected scores. Your dean and/ or unit leader at your college/university will have this information.*

- Q. How does a student prepare for the MoGEA?
 - A. *There are preparation materials (study guide, reference materials, and a practice test) available at www.nesinc.com.*
- Q. Where do I go to take the MoGEA?
 - A. *During the online registration process you will be asked to select a test center. The list of test centers is available at www.nesinc.com.*
- Q. Is it possible to take each subtest individually?
 - A. *Yes. You may take subtests individually, consecutively, or multiple subtests per sitting. Please note that it is cheaper to take the assessment as a whole versus taking the subtests individually.*
- Q. Is it okay to use calculators on this assessment?
 - A. *Yes. A built-in calculator is provided.*

Missouri Content Assessments

- Q. Where do I find information about the new Missouri Content Assessments?
 - A. *You can find information at www.mo.nesinc.com.*
- Q. Why are we switching from the Praxis II Assessment Series?
 - A. *New assessments were developed to align to the current Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators (MoSPE) and the Missouri Teacher Standards Quality Indicators.*
- Q. When does the change occur?
 - A. *The Missouri Content Assessments will be available starting September 2, 2014.*
- Q. How long will my Praxis II score(s) be valid?
 - A. *All Praxis II scores taken on or prior to August 31, 2014, will be valid through December 31, 2016, towards the completion of your educator preparation program.*
- Q. How soon will I receive my score report?
 - A. *MEGA Score Report Dates are provided at www.mo.nesinc.com.*
- Q. Is it possible to travel to another state to take the Praxis II Content Test?
 - A. *The Praxis II assessment is no longer a Missouri-approved test and a score taken in another state will not be accepted in Missouri.*
- Q. What do you mean by “approved” tests?
 - A. *Approved tests are those that have been approved by the Missouri State Board of Education and are required for Missouri certification.*

- Q. I have been told that there are certain certification areas that require students to pass more than one of the Missouri Content Assessments.
 - *A. If you are seeking certification in Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical or one of the Unified Sciences, or if you are seeking a Temporary Authorization Certificate, you will need to pass more than one of the Missouri Content Assessments. If you are seeking certification in Elementary Education or Social Science, you will need to pass all of the subtests that make up each of those assessments. The required list of content assessments for each certification is provided at www.mo.nesinc.com.*
- Q. How does the “Highly Qualified Teachers” (HQT) requirement impact the number of assessments that I am required to pass?
 - *A. Highly Qualified Teachers have to meet federal guidelines that require passing one or more state assessments.*
- Q. How soon will I be able to register for the new content assessments?
 - *A. You may register now. Registration opened on July 23, 2014.*
- Q. Is it true that some of the Missouri Content Assessments have subtests? Why?
 - *A. Yes. Some Missouri Multi-Content Assessments (Elementary Education, Social Science, and Mild/Moderate Middle/Secondary) have subtests to cover all areas of content in order to meet Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirements. If you do not pass a multi-content assessment, you will need to retake only the subtests that you failed.*
- Q. Is it possible to take the subtests individually?
 - *A. Yes. You may take subtests individually, consecutively, or multiple subtests per sitting. Please note that it is cheaper to take the assessment as a whole versus taking the subtests individually.*
- Q. Is it okay to use calculators on mathematics, chemistry, and physics assessments?
 - *A. Yes. For these tests, the appropriate (standard or scientific) built-in calculator is provided. Information for each test is provided at www.mo.nesinc.com.*
- Q. Why are some tests more expensive than others?
 - *A. Some tests are more expensive because they are made up of more than one subtest. Tests that contain constructed response items must be hand-scored and are more expensive. Most of the new Missouri Content Assessments are less expensive than the previous assessments.*
- Q. Where do I go to take the Missouri Content Assessments?
 - *A. You may choose a test center during the online registration process.*
- Q. Is it possible to travel to another state to take the Missouri Content Assessments?
 - *A. Yes. Testing centers are available throughout the United States, with some international testing sites.*
- Q. Who will be setting the Missouri Qualifying Scores?
 - *A. The Missouri State Board of Education will be setting the Missouri Qualifying Scores.*

- Q. How and when will the scores be set?
 - *A. Scores are set after the initial administration of the assessment. The score is determined using impact data from those who have taken the test after the score setting event when such data are available.*
- Q. How will I learn that I have either passed or failed the Missouri Content Assessments?
 - *A. Pearson will send score reports to candidates after the State Board of Education sets the passing scores.*
- Q. Is it possible to still add certification areas by passing the appropriate Missouri Content Assessment?
 - *A. Yes.*
- Q. For the assessments with subtests, do I have to pass all subtests in order to receive my certificate?
 - *A. Yes.*
- Q. How will the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education receive my scores?
 - *A. The Department will automatically receive Missouri Content Assessment scores through a secure data system.*

Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment (MoPTA)

- Q. Student teachers from our preparation program participated in the MoPTA pilot in Fall 2013. We were told that it was going to be implemented in Fall 2014 but then was delayed. Why did this occur?
 - *A. Due to the policy at some districts, videotaping of teacher candidates in classrooms was limited. As a result, MoPTA is delayed until Fall 2015 as alternatives are being discussed.*
- Q. Will students be able to use the MoPTA during the Fall 2014 and/or Spring 2015 semesters?
 - *A. Yes. There will be no charge. It will be up to the educator preparation program to decide if they want to use the MoPTA this year as alternatives are being considered for the 2015 launch.*
- Q. How will we know whether or not the MoPTA will be used by our preparation program?
 - *A. You will need to contact your dean and/or unit leader at your educator preparation program.*
- Q. Will the MoPTA be a certification requirement for 2014-2015?
 - *A. It is not a state requirement for 2014-2015. However, your college or university may choose to use it and require it.*

Requirements for Juniors and Seniors

- Q. What are the requirements for seniors graduating in Fall 2014 and/or Spring 2015?
 - A. *They must do the following:*
 - *Take the Missouri Educator Profile at least once; second time is optional.*
 - *Pass either the CollegeBASE or Missouri General Education Assessment.*
 - *Pass the appropriate Praxis II or Missouri Content Assessment in their Content Area as well as "Add-On" certification areas. Coursework is no longer enough for "Add-On". This is a requirement from No Child Left Behind-Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT).*
 - *Use the MoPTA for their student teachers at no cost to the students or colleges and universities who are choosing to use the assessment.*

- Q. What are the requirements for juniors rising to seniors in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016?
 - A. *They must do the following:*
 - *Take the Missouri Educator Profile at least once; second time is optional*
 - *Pass either the CollegeBASE or Missouri General Education Assessment*
 - *Pass the appropriate Praxis II or Missouri Content Assessment in their Content Area as well as "Add-On" certification areas. Coursework is no longer enough for "Add-On". This is a requirement from No Child Left Behind-HQT.*
 - *Pass all Tasks 1-2-3-4 of the MoPTA.*