



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Deans and Executive Directors of Educator Preparation Programs

FROM: Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer

DATE: July 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Information Regarding: Public Act 16-41 *An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force*

With the passage of Public Act 16-41 *An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force*, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has received inquiries regarding Section 4 (a), as it pertains to the Praxis Core assessment. This memo provides clarifying information regarding this act.

By way of background, prior to the passage of Public Act 16-41, existing law (Connecticut General Statutes § 10-145f) made achievement of satisfactory scores on the Praxis Core a requirement of admission to an educator preparation program approved by the State Board of Education, unless a waiver was granted.

Public Act 16-41 changed the law as follows (with brackets showing deletions and underlined sections showing new language):

Sec. 4 (a) [No] Each person [shall be] formally admitted to a State Board of Education approved teacher preparation program [until such person has achieved satisfactory scores on] shall take the state reading, writing and mathematics competency examination, prescribed by and administered under the direction of the State Board of Education, [, or has qualified for a waiver of such test based on criteria established by the State Board of Education] Each person's results shall be used as a diagnostic tool, in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 5 of this act, for purposes of providing any necessary remedial instruction to such person while he or she is enrolled in such teacher preparation program.

The CSDE is developing guidelines for educator preparation programs (EPPs) on the use of the Praxis Core assessment in accordance with Public Act 16-41.

Effective July 1, 2016, achievement of a satisfactory score on the Praxis Core will no longer be required as a state certification requirement. However, EPPs must ensure candidates take the Praxis Core Mathematics, Reading, and Writing tests as a diagnostic tool, as set forth above. As the CSDE develops guidance for EPPs, it is recommended that EPPs continue to encourage candidates to meet the existing passing standards for each test, outlined in the chart.

The CSDE will also continue to issue waivers for prospective EPP candidates according to current waiver criteria until further guidance is issued. The current waiver criteria for Basic Skills Tests (i.e., Praxis Core) are attached.

The current minimum passing standards are as follows:

Passing Standards for Praxis Core Tests		
PRAXIS CORE MATHEMATICS (Test #5732)	PRAXIS CORE READING (Test #5712)	PRAXIS CORE WRITING (Test #5722)
150	156	162

The CSDE will alert educator preparation programs, including deans/directors and certification officers, upon release of further guidance regarding Public Act 16-41. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Amanda Turner, Associate Education Consultant, at amanda.turner@ct.gov or 860-713-6737.

SB:atn

Attachment

cc: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education
Ms. Ellen E. Cohn, Deputy Commissioner
Ms. Shannon Marimón, Division Director, Talent Office
Dr. Amanda Turner, Associate Education Consultant, Talent Office