Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators

42nd Annual Teacher Education Assembly

October 25, 2013

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Tests in the Program

- The PDE initiated development of a new testing program: the Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests (PECT).

- The tests included in the program are:
  - Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment (PAPA)
  - PreK–4
  - Special Education PreK–8
  - Special Education 7–12

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Test Development

- The tests were developed over a period of 17 months beginning in October 2010.

- Initial meetings with the PDE included discussion of the standards to be used for test development.

- For each test, Pearson drafted a set of objectives, based on Pennsylvania standards, which define the content to be assessed.

- In December 2010, teacher education programs and LEAs were notified about the development of the tests and asked to help identify teachers and teacher educators to serve on advisory committees.

- Pennsylvania advisory committee members <u>reviewed</u>, <u>revised</u>, and <u>approved</u> the test objectives and the test items.

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Test Development Process

- Develop and Review Test Objectives

- Conduct Content Validation Survey

- Develop and Review Test Items

- Conduct Field Test

- Marker Response Selection

- Conduct Standard Setting

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Current Test Design: PAPA (as of Oct. 14, 2013)

Reading	36 multiple-choice questions	45 min.
Mathematics	36 multiple-choice questions	60 min.
Writing	• 36 multiple-choice questions • 2 sentence corrections • 1 essay	75 min.
Total Test	--	180 min.

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Test Design: PreK-4

Module 1	40 multiple-choice questions	45 min.
Module 2	50 multiple-choice questions	75 min.
Module 3	50 multiple-choice questions	75 min.
Total Test	--	195 min.

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Test Design: Special Education PreK-8 and 7-12

Module 1	45 multiple-choice questions	60 min.
Module 2	45 multiple-choice questions	60 min.
Total Test	--	120 min.

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Future Test Design: PAPA (Starting March 3, 2014)

Reading	36 multiple-choice questions	45 min.
Break		15 min.
Mathematics	36 multiple-choice questions	*75 min.
Break		15 min.
Writing	• 36 multiple-choice questions 2 sentence corrections • 1 essay	75 min.
Total Test	--	*195 min.

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PAPA Test Design Changes

- Two 15 minute scheduled breaks

- 15 minutes of additional testing time for the Mathematics module
  - whether scheduled separately or with other two modules

- Test Fee:
  - for all three modules together = $110
  - for Math module taken separately = $44

- No longer able to move between modules
  - cannot apply time saved on one module to a different module
  - ensures all candidates will have a standard amount of time for each module

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Future Test Design: PreK-4 (Starting March 3, 2014)

Module 1	36 multiple-choice questions	45 min.
Break		15 min.
Module 2	45 multiple-choice questions	75 min.
Break		15 min
Module 3	45 multiple-choice questions	*90 min.
Total Test	--	*210 min.

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PreK-4 Test Design Changes

- Two 15 minute scheduled breaks

- 15 minutes of extra time for Module 3
  - whether scheduled separately or with other two modules

- Test Fee:
  - for all three modules together = $131
  - for Module 3 taken separately = $53

- No longer able to move between modules
  - cannot apply time saved on one module to a different module
  - ensures all candidates will have a standard amount of time for each module

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Timeline: PAPA and PreK-4 Test Design Changes

- **January 14, 2014**
  - Fee increase goes into effect when registering for a test

- **March 3, 2014**
  - Test design change goes into effect

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Implications: PAPA and PreK-4 Test Design Changes

- **Want the new test design?**
  - Register on or after January 14, 2014, and schedule a test appointment on or after March 3, 2014.
  - If you register after January 14, do **not** schedule a test prior to March 3, 2014.
  - Current test design continues through March 2, 2014.

- Already registered but not scheduled?
  - Wait until November 7, 2013, before scheduling a test appointment for a date on or after March 3, 2014.

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Implications: PAPA and PreK-4 Test Design Changes

- Candidates who have already registered and have scheduled a test appointment prior to March 3 may:
  - keep their current appointment and take the test with the *current* design

    OR

  - to get the *new* test design, cancel their current test appointment and reschedule their test appointment (on or after November 7) for a date on or after March 3

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Implications: PAPA and PreK-4 Test Design Changes

- For candidates who have already registered and have scheduled a test appointment on or after March 3:
  - Their test appointments will be cancelled. (They will be notified.)
  - They may then reschedule for a test date prior to March 3, 2014 (for the *current* test design).
  - Starting on November 7, they may schedule for a test date on or after March 3, 2014 (for the *new* test design).

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PECT Preparation Materials

- Test Frameworks
- Study guides for all modules with sample test items and additional resources to consult
- Full length practice tests for all modules
- Test preparation video
- Computer-based testing tutorial
- Computer-based test center video tour
- Score report explanations
- Test preparation worksheet
- Faculty resources
  - Understanding the test content
  - Strategies for assessing candidates preparation to take the test
  - Strategies for assessing candidates' readiness for testing

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PAPA Preparation Materials: What's New?

PAPA Full length computer-based practice test

- Available early December 2013

- Automated MCQ scoring

- Percent correct by objective

- On computer-based testing platform

- Rationales for correct responses

- Sample weak and sample strong responses to constructed-response assignment (with rationales)

- Fee-based: $17.50 per module ($29.95 for all three)

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PAPA Preparation Materials: What's New?

MyFoundationsLab PAPA Prep Course

- Pearson e-Learning

- Short course with assessment and diagnostic component

- Supports preparation in the major basic skills content areas of Reading, Mathematics, and Writing

- Provides a way for candidates to assess their knowledge and provides tutorials and study aids to help improve knowledge and skills

- Helps identify some areas of weakness

- Like all preparation activities this course will help put candidates in a better position to show their best performance on the PAPA

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Helping Candidates Prepare

- Ensure candidates are using the preparation materials available on the PECT Web site.

- Use results on the practice tests to identify a candidate's areas of weakness.

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Helping Candidates Prepare to Retest

- Use the diagnostic information on the score report to identify the candidate's areas of strength and weakness.

- Focus on subarea(s) with the most objectives, which count the most towards a candidate's score.

- Improved performance on any area of the test (not just weak areas) will improve the candidate's score.

- Recommend additional coursework, study materials, study techniques, and other preparation activities, as needed.

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