

DATE: September 20, 2012

TO: Education Stakeholders, Institutes of Higher Education

FROM: Jason E. Glass, Director – Iowa Department of Education

SUBJECT: Exemption to Pedagogy Assessment

Dear Education Stakeholder,

On September 18, 2012, I sent out a memorandum describing new Praxis II testing requirements Iowa will have in place as of January 1, 2013. These testing requirements are in both pedagogy and content and are a new condition of completion of a practitioner preparation program in the state and the result of education reform legislation passed in the 2012 legislative session.

One clear goal we put in place at the Department was to make the testing system for teacher candidates as simple as possible and to limit the number of assessments to one in pedagogy and one in content for each candidate.

Over the past couple of days, several candidates and teacher education programs have made us aware that a number of Elementary teachers were preparing to take the previously required Praxis II 0011/5011 Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment exam. In the new configuration I sent out earlier this week, a different exam was chosen to meet the pedagogical requirement.

In recognition that this is a change from previous practice and to minimize burden on teacher candidates, I am authorizing an exemption to allow test 0011/5011 to count toward the pedagogy requirement for elementary teachers who are graduating after January 1, 2013 and who have already taken or enrolled to take the 0011/5011 test. The passing cut score for this assessment shall be set at 165.

This exemption will expire on June 30, 2013, after which time all elementary candidates will be required to take the assessment noted in my September 18, 2012 memo, Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching. .

Please note that this exemption is only for the pedagogy requirement. All elementary candidates are still required to take the 0014/5014 content assessment.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service in offering this flexibility and believe that it meets the intent of the statute while also honoring plans and work that have already been in place.

On behalf of the Iowa Department of Education, thank you for your dedication and service to Iowa's students and schools.