



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JASON E. GLASS, DIRECTOR

DATE: October 3, 2012

TO: Education Stakeholders, Institutes of Higher Education

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

SUBJECT: Change to Assessment Requirements for Two Endorsement Areas

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. We also adhere to the goal of assuring a fair and effective assessment for each teacher candidate.

There has been a great deal of discussion about the content assessment requirement for two Iowa endorsement areas: 158 - American History-5-12 and 166 - World History-5-12. This discussion centered on what will be the most effective assessment of candidate content knowledge in these two endorsement areas. The requirements released on September 18, 2012 called for the Praxis Social Studies: Content Knowledge 0081 test for these two endorsements. Having learned from this discussion, I am authorizing a change for the two endorsement areas:

- 158 - American History-5-12 and
- 166 - World History-5-12.

The required assessment for both of these endorsements is now Praxis World and U.S. History: Content Knowledge 0941/5941. The passing score for this test is 147.

This change is effective immediately. Candidates will not be allowed to substitute the Praxis Content Knowledge 0081 test for the Praxis World and U.S. History: Content Knowledge 0941/5941 test. An updated spreadsheet with the required tests and scores is available on the Iowa Department of Education website under Practitioner Preparation: http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=477&Itemid=535.

Grimes State Office Building - 400 E 14th St - Des Moines IA 50319-0146

PHONE (515) 281-5294 FAX (515) 242-5988

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Please note that this change is only for the content requirement for these two endorsements. There are no changes for any other endorsement areas.

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.