



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JASON E. GLASS, DIRECTOR

DATE: October 3, 2012

TO: Education Stakeholders, Northwestern College

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

SUBJECT: Exemption to Music Education Content Assessment

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.

Recently, Northwestern College faculty members have made us aware that all thirteen music education candidates for spring 2013 graduation have already taken the Praxis 0113 Music Content Knowledge test as a Northwestern College music content requirement. In the testing requirements sent out to Iowa Colleges and Universities on September 18, 2012, the required content test for music educators is the Praxis 0114 Music: Content and Instruction.

In recognition that music education students at Northwestern have already taken a content test, even when not required by statute, and to minimize burden on teacher candidates, I am authorizing an exemption to allow the Praxis 0113 Music Content Knowledge test to count toward the music content requirement for Northwestern Music Education candidates who are graduating after January 1, 2013 and who have already taken the 0113 Music Content Knowledge test. The passing score for the 0113 assessment shall be set at 158.

This exemption will expire on June 30, 2013, after which time all Northwestern College music education candidates will be required to take the assessment noted in my September 18, 2012 memo, Praxis 0114 Music: Content and Instruction, with a passing score of 162.

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Please note that this exemption is only for the content requirement. All candidates graduating after January 1, 2013 are still required to take the appropriate grade level Praxis PLT Pedagogy test.

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.