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NYSATE/NYACTE Conference

New York State Education Department
John D'Agati, Deputy Commissioner for Higher Education
October 21, 2011



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Educator Certification Exams

In November 2009, Board of Regents directed the Department to:

- create performance-based assessments for initial and professional certification for teachers and principals
- develop more rigorous Content Specialty Tests to assess new teachers' mastery of knowledge in content area they will be teaching

Department and contractor Pearson Evaluation Systems are developing these new certification exams, with input from:

- exam committees made up of practicing educators and faculty from preparation programs
- experts in assessment, Common Core standards, data-driven instruction, and educator evaluation

Higher Education Engagement in Developing Exams

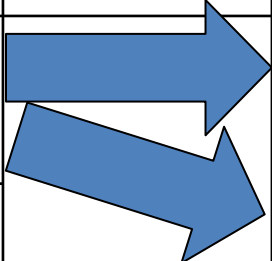
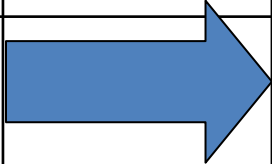
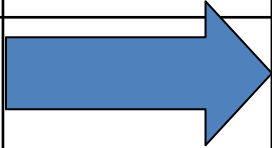
Higher education institutions and faculty have been active participants in development of new certification exams

- Exam committees made up of practicing educators and faculty from preparation programs reviewed exam designs and provided detailed input

Results of Fall 2010 pilot test and Spring 2011 field test have led to improvements in exams for this fall's field testing and are informing implementation planning

- 44 institutions participated in pilot and field tests of teacher performance assessment (29 Independent, 10 SUNY, and 5 CUNY)
- 21 institutions participated in pilot and field tests of school building leader performance assessment (15 Independent, 5 SUNY, and 1 CUNY)
- Across those institutions, 359 candidates participated under the supervision of 175 faculty members

Initial Certification for Teachers

Current Exams		New Exams <i>(in development and subject to change)</i>
Assessment of Teaching Skills -Written		Performance Assessment (Portfolio)
		Educating All Students Test
Liberal Arts And Science Test		Academic Literacy Skills Test
Content Specialty Test		Revised Content Specialty Test

Teacher Performance Assessment

What is the design?

- Electronic portfolio system
- Evaluates practice-based skills proven to have a positive impact on student achievement

What are the tasks?

- 2 videos, each of a 15-20 minute lesson
- Lesson plan based on student achievement data
- Outcomes-based analysis and reflection on the lesson
- For childhood (1-6) and early childhood (B-2) candidates, one video must be of a math lesson

Exam is in development and design is subject to change.

Teacher Performance Assessment (cont'd)

How does this fit into preparation programs?

- Candidates may complete the portfolio in the context of their student teaching/internship assignment
- Prior to submitting completed portfolio to Pearson for scoring, candidates can submit their work to faculty for feedback
- Faculty may review candidates' work and annotate videos
- Based on feedback, candidates may decide to record a new video or otherwise revise their work

Exam is in development and design is subject to change.

Educating All Students Test

- Achievement gaps for English language learners, students with disabilities, and black and Latino students
- Test is designed to ensure all teachers and school building leaders understand how to address the learning needs of diverse student populations

Exam is in development and design is subject to change.

Academic Literacy Skills Test

- NYS Common Core learning standards in ELA/Literacy require teachers across the disciplines to be:
 - critical readers
 - who can engage with informational texts, and
 - reason using evidence
- Test will focus on more than just writing skills
 - Reading comprehension and analysis
 - Written analysis and expression

Exam is in development and design is subject to change.

Content Specialty Tests

- Aligned with NYS Learning Standards, including Common Core
- Will be revised in batches, starting with the Multi-Subject CSTs for early childhood (B-2) and childhood (1-6) teachers
- For Multi-Subject CST, candidate must separately pass each subtest (ELA/Literacy, Math, Arts & Sciences) to ensure elementary teachers have the content knowledge to be effective teaching to the Common Core standards

Exams are in development and design is subject to change.

Initial Certification for School Building Leaders

Current Exams	New Exams <i>(in development and subject to change)</i>
Written Assessment	Written Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developing an Educational Vision; Managing Change ● Leading the Educational Program; Managing School Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visionary Leadership, the Change Process and the Educational program ● Accountability, Management, and Compliance
	Performance Assessment (Computer Simulation)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Improvement Plan ● Teacher Observation and Feedback ● Professional Development to Enhance Data-Driven Instruction

School Building Leader Performance Assessment

- Designed to evaluate practice-based skills proven to have a positive impact on student achievement
- Will include simulation tasks, including:
 - data-driven instruction
 - video-based teacher observation and feedback using a rubric based on NYS Teaching Standards

Exam is in development and design is subject to change.

Discussion: Opportunities and Challenges for Preparation Programs

- What are your programs doing around clinical aspects of educator preparation?
- What will changes to initial certification mean to you?
- What suggestions do you have for timing of transition to new certification assessments?
- What suggestions do you have for incentivizing participation of cooperating teachers and ensuring their quality?
- What are other implementation challenges you will face?
- How can NYSED help?

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Thank You.



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