

To: Educator Preparation Faculty, Advisors, and Leaders
Topic: Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments for the 2014-2015 Academic Year
Implementation of the Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators (MoSPE)
Implementation of the New Certification Requirements
From: Gale "Hap" Hairston, Ed.D. – Director, Educator Preparation
Date: Monday – October 20, 2014



Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments:

The Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments (MEGA) is a comprehensive approach to assess the pre-professional development of students working for educator certification in Missouri. These assessments provide a common, statewide foundation of content knowledge, professional practice, and collective agreement on “what it takes to be an effective educator.” While the number and cost of these assessments have increased, the State Board of Education fully understands the implications and challenges associated with developing quality educators for schools in Missouri. The assessments are spaced at different transition points throughout the preparation program. These assessments are an investment in your development and are part of your commitment to becoming a Missouri educator. The following information focuses on the Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments for 2014-2015. Please review and don’t hesitate to share any questions with your colleagues and/or the Office of Educator Quality. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section can be found at the end of this memo.

Missouri Educator Profile (MEP) – Test Fee \$22: The Missouri Educator Profile is an assessment designed to measure a person’s work styles as they relate to “effective educators” in Missouri. This required assessment is completed before or immediately after being accepted into an educator preparation program. Students complete the MEP online and receive a score report that compares their work styles to effective educators working in their selected grade levels. This score report is reviewed by the student and shared with their preparation program advisor(s). The final three pages give the student and advisor an opportunity to develop an improvement plan. Students have the option to take the MEP again at the conclusion of their program to demonstrate their growth.

Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA) – Test Fee \$49: The Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA) replaced the CollegeBASE in September 2013. This computer-based assessment includes subtests in English, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. This test is typically taken during the second year of the educator preparation program. Students must pass all five subtests before they can be formally admitted to an undergraduate educator preparation program. Candidates who successfully passed all sections of their CollegeBASE assessment may use those scores until December 31, 2016. Additional fees may be charged by testing sites.

Missouri Content Assessments – Test Fees Range from \$77 to \$165: This new series of exit exams must be passed by students for all areas of certification they are seeking. These computer-based assessments are aligned with state and national standards. Students typically take these assessments toward the end of the third year in the program. Many programs require the passage of the appropriate Missouri

Content Assessment(s) prior to student teaching. The Missouri Content Assessments replaced the Praxis II Content Assessments in September 2014. Students who have passed the Praxis II Content Assessment on or before August 31, 2014, will be allowed to use their score until December 31, 2016. They must have completed their preparation program by December 31, 2016, as well.

Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment (MoPTA): Educator Preparation Programs have the option to require candidates to complete and pass the MoPTA during the 2014-2015 school year. There is no additional cost to students and/or Educator Preparation Programs for using the MoPTA.

If you have any questions and/or need any additional information about MEGA, please email the Office of Educator Preparation at EQPrep@dese.mo.gov.

Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments (MEGA) Summary for 2014-2015			
When	Name of the Assessment	Test Fees	Date Available
Prior to or at Entry	Missouri Educator Profile	\$22.00	Currently Available
Entry	Missouri General Education Assessment (Replaced the CollegeBASE)	\$49.00 Complete \$25.00 Per Subtest for Retakes	
Prior to or During Student Teaching	Missouri Content Area Assessments (Some content areas require multiple assessments.) (Replaces the Praxis II Series)	Ranges from \$77.00 to \$165.00 Additional Fees for Retaking Subtests	Currently Available
During Student Teaching	Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment (Optional Use by Educator Preparation Program)	No Cost	Currently Available

Frequently Asked Questions:

Missouri Educator Profile (MEP)

- Q. Who sees the results of my Missouri Educator Profile?
 - A. *You, the student, will see your results, and your results will be sent to the college or university that you have selected. It is recommended that you meet with your advisor and go over your results.*
- Q. Will future employers have access to MEP scores?
 - A. *No, school districts will not have access to the MEP scores. It is the student's decision with whom they share their MEP scores.*
- Q. Last year, it was stated that students had to take the MEP twice. Is that still true?
 - A. *No, you are required to take the MEP at the entry of your educator preparation program. Although it is not a state requirement, some preparation programs may choose to have you complete the MEP immediately preceding your last field and/or clinical experience.*

- Q. The MEP compares my scores to “effective” Missouri educators. Who are they?
 - A. *The normative group was made up of educators (teachers of all grade levels, counselors, librarians, and school leaders) who were nominees and teachers of the year, former Select Teachers As Regional Resources (STARR) teachers, National Board teachers, members of the Missouri Council of School Administrators (MCSA) and Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL), and those in effective schools shown by growth.*
- Q. I understand that the MEP is used for other certification areas for teachers. Is that true?
 - A. *No, the MEP helps us to understand the fit between a candidate’s work styles and those exhibited by effective educators. It is not based on the certification area in which you teach. The MEP is also used as an advising tool for counselors, librarians, and building leaders.*
- Q. Where do I go to take the MEP?
 - A. *The MEP is an internet-based survey. You may complete it from any computer connected to the internet.*
- Q. What is the passing score on the MEP?
 - A. *There is not a passing score. This is an assessment of work style preferences used to support the development of effective educator work styles.*

Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA)

- Q. I passed four of the five CollegeBASE subtests. Do I have to take the complete MoGEA?
 - A. *Yes, candidates who have not passed the complete CollegeBASE assessment, which includes all subtests, will have to pass the new Missouri General Education Assessment that began in September 2013.*
- Q. I passed all five subtests of the CollegeBASE. Will my scores expire? If so, when?
 - A. *If you have passed all five subtests, your scores will be valid until December 31, 2016. You must also have completed your program on or before that date*
- Q. Are you allowed to take breaks while taking this assessment?
 - A. *There are two (2) 15-minute breaks built in for those who are taking the complete MoGEA. This includes all five (5) subtests*
- Q. How soon will I receive my score report?
 - A. *MEGA Score Reporting Dates are provided at www.mo.nesinc.com.*
- Q. How do I find out the passing scores on each of the subtests?
 - A. *Your dean and/or unit leader at your college/university will have this information.*
- Q. Will preparation programs be changing their passing scores for 2014-2015?
 - A. *Educator Preparation Programs were given the option to change their selected scores. Your dean and/or unit leader at your college/university will have this information.*

- Q. How does a student prepare for the MoGEA?
 - A. *There are preparation materials (study guide, reference material, and practice test) available at www.nesinc.com.*
- Q. Where do I go to take the MoGEA?
 - A. *During the online registration process you will be asked to select a test center. The list of test centers is available at www.nesinc.com.*
- Q. Is it possible to take each subtest individually?
 - A. *Yes, you may take subtests individually, consecutively, or multiple subtests per sitting. Please note that it is cheaper to take the assessment as a whole versus taking the subtests individually.*
- Q. Is it okay to use calculators on this assessment?
 - A. *Yes. A built-in calculator is provided.*

Missouri Content Assessments

- Q. Where do I find information about the new Missouri Content Assessments?
 - A. *You can find information at www.mo.nesinc.com.*
- Q. Why are we switching from the Praxis II Assessment Series?
 - A. *New assessments were developed to align to the current Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators (MoSPE) and the Missouri Teacher Standards and Quality Indicators.*
- Q. When does the change occur?
 - A. *The Missouri Content Assessments administered by Evaluation Systems group of Pearson started in September 2014.*
- Q. How long will my Praxis II score(s) be valid?
 - A. *All Praxis II scores taken on or prior to August 31, 2014, will be valid through December 31, 2016. You must also have completed your program on or before that date.*
- Q. How soon will I receive my score report?
 - A. *MEGA Score Report Dates are provided at www.mo.nesinc.com.*
- Q. Is it possible to travel to another state to take the Praxis II Content Test?
 - A. *No. The Praxis II assessment is no longer a Missouri-approved test and a score taken in another state will not be accepted in Missouri.*
- Q. What do you mean by “approved” tests?
 - A. *Approved tests are those that have been approved by the Missouri State Board of Education and are required for Missouri certification.*
- Q. I have been told that there are certain certification areas that require students to pass more than one of the Missouri Content Assessments.
 - A. *If you are seeking certification in one of the following areas -- Elementary Education, Social Studies, Unified Science, and Mild Moderate Cross Categorical -- you will need to pass more than one of the Missouri Content Assessments. The required list of content assessments is provided at www.mo.nesinc.com.*

- Q. How does the “Highly Qualified Teachers” (HQT) requirement impact the number of assessments that I am required to pass?
 - A. *Highly Qualified Teachers have to meet federal guidelines that require passing one or more state assessments.*
- Q. Is it true that some of the Missouri Content Assessments have subtests? Why?
 - A. *Yes. Some Missouri Content Assessments have subtests that cover all areas included in that certification. The following assessments have subtests: Elementary Education, Social Studies, Unified Science, and Mild Moderate Cross Categorical Special Education.*
- Q. Is it possible to take the subtests individually?
 - A. *Yes. You may take subtests individually, consecutively, or multiple subtests per sitting. Please note that it is cheaper to take the assessment as a whole versus taking the subtests individually.*
- Q. Is it okay to use calculators on this assessment?
 - A. *Yes. A built-in calculator is provided.*
- Q. Why are some tests more expensive than others?
 - A. *Some tests are more expensive because they are made up of more than one subtest. Tests that contain a constructed response item must be hand-scored and are more expensive.*
- Q. Where do I go to take the Missouri Content Assessments?
 - A. *You may choose a test center during the online registration process.*
- Q. Who will be setting the Missouri Qualifying Scores?
 - A. *The Missouri State Board of Education will be setting the Missouri Qualifying Scores in December 2014.*
- Q. How and when will the scores be set?
 - A. *Missouri Qualifying Scores are being set after the initial administration of the assessment. The score is determined using impact data from the first two months of testing and the results of the Item Validation & Standard Setting Panels.*
- Q. How will I learn that I have either passed or failed the Missouri Content Assessments?
 - A. *Pearson will send score reports to students. Scoring reports are simultaneously sent to each preparation program and the Department.*
- Q. Is it possible to still add certification areas by passing the appropriate Missouri Content Assessment?
 - A. *Yes. This policy remains in place. The Missouri Content Assessments are now used for this purpose.*
- Q. For the assessments with subtests, do I have to pass all subtests in order to receive my certificate?
 - A. *Yes.*
- Q. How will the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education receive my scores?
 - A. *The Department will automatically receive Missouri Content Assessment scores through a secure data system.*

- Q. Will a candidate wanting to add- on another area of certification by taking the new Missouri Content Assessment have to wait until the cut scores are set?
 - *Yes. The candidate will need to wait until the State Board of Education sets the Missouri Qualifying Scores in December 2014 **and** until their Initial Professional Certificate is issued.*
- Q. What test will students currently enrolled in an Elementary/Early Childhood program approved by DESE need to take?
 - *A. Students will be required to have passed either the Missouri approved Praxis II Assessment prior to August 31, 2014 or the Missouri Elementary Multi-Content Assessment beginning in September 2014.*
- Q. Will students who have taken and passed the Early Childhood Praxis or the Missouri Content Assessment for Early Childhood need to take the Elementary Content Assessment in order to gain certification in Elementary?
 - *A. No, Assessment not required to add Elementary certification if all coursework requirements have been met. However, federal requirements for Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT) will require them to have passed the new Elementary Multi-Content Assessment.*
- Q. Will candidates completing and Early Childhood Certification as an “Add-on” in 2014-2015 be required to take the new Missouri Early Childhood Content Assessment?
 - *A. No. This will not resolve the issues related to High Qualified Teachers (HQT).*
- Q. Will there be an Early Childhood Multi-Content Assessment?
 - *A. Yes. Evaluation Systems group of Pearson and the Department will be inviting early childhood educators (six representatives from both K-12 and educator preparation programs) to review the options for implementing that assessment.*
- Q. Will the new Missouri Early Childhood Multi-Content Assessment replace the current Early Childhood Assessment?
 - *A. Yes. The new Missouri Early Childhood Multi-Content Assessment is scheduled to replace the current Missouri Early Childhood Content Assessment in 2014-2015.*
- Q. When will a student need to take the new Elementary Multi-Content Assessment?
 - *A. Candidates who have not passed the Praxis II Elementary Education Assessment and are completing an elementary education program in 2014-2015 will need to take this assessment.*
- Q. What are the requirements for Middle School Certification?
 - *Preparation programs are encouraged but, not required to offer middle level certification that culminates in two areas of Middle School Certification.*
- Q. Will candidates who are working toward two or more Middle School Certification areas be required to take two or more Missouri Content Assessments?
 - *A. Candidates who are working towards Middle School Certification in two areas and did not pass the Praxis II Content Assessment in at least one area of certification prior to August 31, 2014, will be required to take the Missouri Content Assessment in both areas. The candidate needs to be recommended by their educator preparation program.*

- Q. Are middle school candidates who passed the Praxis II in one certification area prior to August 31, 2014 eligible for certification in that area?
 - A. Yes with the recommendation of their educator preparation program.
- Q. What Missouri Content Tests are available for middle level certification?
 - A. There are four Missouri Content Assessments for middle level certification. They are Language Arts (011), Mathematics (012), Science (013), and Social Science (014).
- Q. What Missouri Content Assessment would be taken for middle level certification in areas other than the four listed above?
 - A. The candidates will take the Professional Knowledge: Middle School (062).

Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment (MoPTA)

- Q. Student teachers from our preparation program participated in the MoPTA pilot in Fall 2013. We were told that it was going to be implemented in Fall 2014 but then was delayed. Why did this occur?
 - A. *Due to the policy at some districts, videotaping of teacher candidates in classrooms was limited. As a result, MoPTA is delayed until Fall 2015.*
- Q. Will students be able to use the MoPTA during the Fall 2014 and/or Spring 2015 semesters?
 - A. *Yes, and there will be no charge. It will be up to the educator preparation program to decide if they want to use the MoPTA this year as alternatives are being considered for the 2015 launch. You can find these changes located in the MoPTA Handbook at www.mega.ets.org.*
- Q. How will we know whether or not the MoPTA will be used by our preparation program?
 - A. *You will need to contact your dean and/or unit leader at your educator preparation program.*
- Q. Will the MoPTA be a certification requirement for 2014-2015?
 - A. *It is not a state requirement for 2014-2015. However, your college or university may choose to require it for program completion.*
- Educator Preparation Programs did not receive any data from the MoPTA pilot that took place last year, but would like to obtain that information. Is it possible?
 - *ETS has sent us the Report from the Spring Pilot for distribution to our educator preparation programs.*
- Q. Is there a way to condense MoPTA materials and separate them into documents that pertain to student teachers, cooperating teachers, and supervisors?
 - *Educational Testing Service (ETS) has posted the Handbook to www.mega.ets.org. It is not broken up by audiences, but this has been discussed as a possibility for the 2015-2016 handbook.*
- Q. Who will the candidates upload their task during 2014-2015?
 - A. *Candidates will upload their task as directed by their preparation program..*
- Q. Who will receive the candidate's scores for the individual task?

- *A. When MoPTA is implemented in Fall 2015, the candidate and the preparation program will receive the scores for each task along with the feedback. Preparation programs will have access to scores through ETS – Data Manager.*
- Q. Is it possible for ETS to explore having interface data management systems (e.g., LiveText, Chalk and Wire, TaskStream)?
 - *A. ETS does not have plans at this time to interface with other technological applications.*
- Q. Task 1 is not scored by ETS; the Educator Preparation Programs will need access to the Task 1 submission.
 - *A. Faculty members and cooperating teachers will have access to and capability to score Task 1 within the ETS system. A Mock Report for students was given to Field & Clinical Experience representatives.*

Testing Requirements for Juniors and Seniors

- Q. What are the requirements for seniors graduating in Fall 2014 and/or Spring 2015?
 - *A. They must do the following:*
 - *Missouri Educator Profile at least once; second time is optional.*
 - *Pass either the CollegeBASE or Missouri General Education Assessment.*
 - *Pass the appropriate Praxis II or Missouri Content Assessment in their Content Area as well as "Add-On" certification areas. Coursework is no longer enough for "Add-On". This is a requirement from No Child Left Behind-Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT).*
 - *Use the MoPTA for their student teachers at no cost to the students or colleges and universities.*
- Q. What are the requirements for juniors rising to seniors in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016?
 - *A. They must do the following:*
 - *Take the Missouri Educator Profile at least once; second time is optional*
 - *Pass either the CollegeBASE or Missouri General Education Assessment*
 - *Pass the appropriate Praxis II or Missouri Content Assessment in their Content Area as well as well as any additional areas of certification. This is a requirement from No Child Left Behind-HQT.*
 - *Pass all Tasks 1-2-3-4 of the MoPTA.*

Certification

- Q. How can the educator preparation program help candidates understand the approved program agreement between their college/university and DESE?
 - *A. Course catalogs represent a contract between a college/university and a student for a particular degree. State and federal requirements are specific to certification levels granted by the state.*

- Q. How long can students earn certification in grades K-9?
 - *A. Candidates who are currently enrolled in a K-9 certification program have a four year window to complete.*
- Q. When should Educator Preparation Programs stop enrolling students in the K-9 certification areas?
 - *A. Students should not be enrolled into K-9 certification programs beyond the 2014-2015 academic year.*
- Q. Is it possible for educator preparation programs to have individual certification program areas approved based upon competency and/or coursework?
 - *A. Yes. There are minimum semester hours that must be met for any or all areas of certification. If those requirements are met, certification programs may be approved based upon individual courses and/or competencies that are embedded in several courses.*

Compendium & New Certification Requirements

- Q. Is there a link to the compendium and the New Certification Requirements?
 - *A. The new requirements can be found on our website:*
<http://dese.mo.gov/governmental-affairs/dese-administrative-rules/incorporated-reference-materials/compendium>
- Q. When did the Missouri State Board of Education approve the new certification area requirements?
 - *A. The requirements were approved January 2014.*
- Q. When should the educator preparation programs have the new requirements fully implemented?
 - *A. Full implementation of the new certification requirements should be completed by 8/1/2017.*
- Q. Where can the 'content' courses for elementary be found?
 - *A. The new Missouri Certification Requirements for Elementary Education are included in the section entitled "Content Knowledge for Teaching and Teaching & Learning Strategies for a minimum of 21 hours."*
- Q. What are the 'content' courses for elementary?
 - *A. Elementary Literacy (Minimum of 12 Semester Hours to Include:*
 - *Children's Literature*
 - *English/Language Arts*
 - *Language Acquisition*
 - *Mathematics (Minimum of 6 Semester Hours)*
 - *Science*
 - *Social Science*
 - *Integration of the following areas:*
 - *Art*
 - *Music*
 - *Health & Physical Education*

Memorandum of Understanding

- Q. Are Educator Preparation Programs required to implement a MOU with partner districts at this time, even though the MOU template has not yet been finalized?
 - A. *The MOU Template will be finalized during the Field & Clinical Directors/Supervisors Meeting in November 2014. Educator Preparation Programs are encouraged to move quickly to develop, discuss, and implement MOUs for both initial and advanced programs.*
- Q. When should Educator Preparation Programs have MOUs in place?
 - A. *All Educator Preparation Programs should have MOUs in place by the start of the Fall Semester of 2017.*

Annual Performance Report

- Q. Will preparation programs be accountable for all of the assessments required for a specific certification area?
 - A. *Yes. The scores from all of the Missouri Content Assessments for a specific certification area will be included in the Annual Performance Report. For example, educator preparation programs for Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical Special Education will be held accountable for both the Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical Assessment (050) and either the Elementary Multi-Content Assessments (007, 008, 009, 010), the Middle/Secondary Multi-Content Assessments (052, 053, 054, 055), or the secondary certification assessment selected by the candidate.*
- Q. What does the term “Internal Use” mean?
 - A. *The Annual Performance Report for Educator Preparation Programs (APR-EPP) will be released “internally” to all approved Missouri educator preparation programs in February 2015. All programs will have the capability to see one another’s APR-EPP. In this way, the roll-out of the APR-EPP mirrors the roll-out of the Annual Performance Reports for K-12 public LEAs under the Missouri School Improvement Program.*
- Q. When will the APR-EPP be publicly released?
 - A. *The APR-EPP will be publicly released for the first time in February 2017.*
- Q. When will preparation programs begin to be held accountable for their APR-EPP data?
 - A. *Beginning with the first internal release in February 2015, preparation programs will be held accountable for performance compared to state standards. The subsequent APR-EPPs, released internally in February 2016 and publically released in 2017 and 2018, will also be used for accountability purposes.*
- Q. When will decisions by the State Board of Education be made and announced related to the “continuing approval” of preparation programs?
 - A. *In February 2018, the accumulated findings from the APR-EPPs, released internally in February 2015 and 2016 and publically released 2017 and 2018, will impact program approval decisions.*