

Are Missouri's Student Teachers "Learner Ready?" **Monday – July 28, 2014**

Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment

The Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment (MoPTA) — developed by ETS in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education — measures not only what pre-service teachers know, but also their classroom capabilities.

Aligned with Missouri's Teacher Standards and Quality Indicators, the MoPTA is a performance-based assessment that educator preparation programs use to guide candidates through their clinical experience and to assess the instructional capability of the teacher candidates prior to licensure. The MoPTA consists of four tasks (one formative and three summative) that require the teacher candidate to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and abilities in the classroom as demonstrated through the following:

- Task 1: Knowledge of Students and the Learning Environment
- Task 2: Assessment and Data Collection to Measure and Inform Student Learning
- Task 3: Designing Instruction for Student Learning
- Task 4: Implementing and Analyzing Instruction to Promote Student Learning

Designed to organize and provide guidance throughout the student-teaching experience, MoPTA's four tasks are submitted and scored sequentially over the course of the student-teaching experience. This ongoing feedback promotes substantial collaboration between the teacher candidates, their supervising instructors and their cooperating teachers. It also provides opportunity for the teacher candidates to adjust and improve their performance throughout the assessment.

MoPTA Advantages:

1. Provides a deeper and more complete view of a teacher candidate's performance and growth throughout the student-teaching experience.
2. Promotes reflective practice and encourages collaboration between the teacher candidates, supervising instructors and cooperating teachers.
3. Provides the teacher candidate an opportunity to complete a Professional Competency Profile. Developed in consultation with the supervising instructor and cooperating teacher, this profile engages the candidate in reflection, goal setting and action planning in accordance with MoPTA's on-the-job expectations.
4. Provides authentic video evidence of a student teacher's true teaching abilities, including decision making and classroom interactions. This video task directly measures what a teacher candidate can do in a classroom, not only as documented in the video but also through the analysis and reflection of that video by the candidate.

The Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment consists of four tasks:	
Task & Type	Description
<p>Task 1: Knowledge of Students and the Learning Environment</p> <p>Type: Formative, scored by supervising instructor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires candidates to demonstrate the knowledge and skills that pertain to their student-teaching assignment in regard to the students, the school and the community. These factors will help candidates understand the implications for instruction and student learning. • Focuses on the beginning steps of a teacher candidate's practice, including the ability to identify individual learning needs requiring differentiated instruction • Provides first steps for the creation of a portfolio • Includes feedback from the supervising instructor and the cooperating teacher • Requires a written commentary and artifacts to be submitted
<p>Task 2: Assessment and Data Collection to Measure and Inform Student Learning</p> <p>Type: Summative, centrally scored anonymously by trained content-specific educators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires candidates to demonstrate their understanding, analysis and application of assessment and data collection to measure and inform student learning • Focuses on Missouri's Teacher Standards and Quality Indicators standards for using data both to inform instruction for the whole class and to meet individual learning needs • Requires a written commentary and artifacts to be submitted
<p>Task 3: Designing Instruction for Student Learning</p> <p>Type: Summative, centrally scored anonymously by trained content-specific educators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires candidates to demonstrate their ability to develop instruction, including the use of technology, to facilitate student learning both for the whole class and for students with individual learning needs • Focuses on Missouri's Teacher Standards and Quality Indicators for classroom instruction, including the use of technology • Requires a written commentary and artifacts to be submitted
<p>Task 4: Implementing and Analyzing Instruction to Promote Student Learning</p> <p>Type: Summative, centrally scored anonymously by trained content-specific educators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires candidates to demonstrate their ability to plan and implement a lesson and includes a 15-minute video of the candidate teaching a lesson • Focuses on the ability to use research-based instructional strategies and adapt instruction for individual needs • Assesses a range of standards with some overlap from other tasks • Reflects on overall teaching practice • Requires a written commentary and artifacts, including a 15-minute video submission

For more information about MoPTA, please contact the Office of Educator Preparation by calling 573-751-1668 or emailing Gale.Hairston@dese.mo.gov.