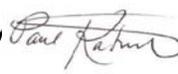


TO: School Administrators – Title IA & Special Education Directors
FROM: Paul Katnik, Interim Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality, 
 Gale "Hap" Hairston, Director, Educator Preparation
SUBJECT: Change in ParaProfessional Test
DATE: Thursday – May 16, 2013

In August 2012, the Office of Educator Quality released a Request for Proposal to develop a new series of assessments for educators. Proposals were reviewed and contracts awarded to the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson and Educational Testing Service (ETS) to develop the Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments (MEGA). There are six assessments that will be developed and implemented over the next two years.

One of those is the assessment used to certify paraprofessionals who have earned less than 60 hours of college credit is changing. Beginning this September, the *ParaProfessional Test* will be administered by Evaluation Systems group of Pearson. Paraprofessionals hired after September 3, 2013, will need to pass the new *ParaProfessional Test*. The new test will be offered at specified Pearson Test Centers.

The *ParaProfessional Test* is replacing the *ParaPro Assessment* provided by ETS. School districts that have registration keys previously purchased from ETS will be allowed to use them but, will not be able to purchase additional keys after August 31, 2013. Paraprofessionals who have passed the *ParaPro Assessment* will NOT be required to pass the new assessment.

Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments Implementation Plans for the <i>ParaProfessional Test</i>	
Educational Testing Service	Evaluation Systems group of Pearson
<i>ParaPro Assessment</i>	<i>ParaProfessional Test</i>
Last Test Date: August 31, 2013	First Test Date: September 3, 2013
School districts with previously purchased registration keys will be allowed to use those keys. No additional keys will be sold after August 31, 2013. **	All paraprofessionals with less than 60 hours of college credit will need to pass the <i>ParaProfessional Test</i> . **
Paraprofessionals who have already passed the <i>ParaPro Assessment</i> will not have to pass the new assessment.	The Missouri Qualifying Score will be set by the state board on August 20, 2013.
	The <i>ParaProfessional Test</i> is offered at Pearson Vue Test Centers.

** Please note the exception if a school district still has remaining test keys from ETS.

Questions related to the implementation of the new *ParaProfessional Test* should be directed to Educator Preparation at 573-751-1668 or EQPrep@dese.mo.gov.