

Administrative Memo

Date: August 20, 2013
To: School Superintendents
Building Principals
Special Education & Title I Directors
From: Paul Katnik – Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality
Subject: EQ-13-003 – New Paraprofessional Assessment & Missouri Qualifying Score

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.

A qualifying score for the new assessment for the paraprofessional was approved by the State Board of Education on August 19, 2013. This assessment is used to certify paraprofessionals who have not earned an associate's degree or have less than 2 years of college. Beginning next month, the *Paraprofessional Test* will be administered by Evaluation Systems group of Pearson for new paraprofessionals hired after September 3, 2013. The new test will be offered at specified Pearson IBT Test Centers. The Missouri Qualifying Score has been set at 220 using a 100-300 scale. School districts interested in becoming an approved test site for the new *Paraprofessional Assessment* should contact Jim Connolly at Jim.Connolly@pearson.com.

The *ParaProfessional Test* is replacing the *ParaPro Assessment* provided by ETS which had a qualifying score of 458 using a 420-480 scale. School districts that have registration keys previously purchased from ETS will be allowed to use them but will be unable to purchase additional keys after August 31, 2013. Paraprofessionals who have previously passed the *ParaPro Assessment* by ETS will NOT be required to pass the new assessment.

Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments
 Paraprofessional Assessment by Evaluation Systems group of Pearson
 Tuesday – August 20, 2013

Educational Testing Service	Evaluation Systems group by Pearson
ParaPro Assessment	Paraprofessional Assessment
Missouri Qualifying Score 458 using a 420-480 scale	New Missouri Qualifying Score 220 using a 100-300 scale
Last Test Date on August 31, 2013	First Test Date on September 23, 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. The Missouri Qualifying Score 458 remains until the keys are used.	All paraprofessionals with less than 60 hours of college credit will need to pass the <i>Paraprofessional Test</i> .
	Registration Website Opens on September 17 at www.mo.nesinc.com .

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.