TO: Deans and Chairs  
FROM: Karen Balmer  
DATE: November 20, 2010  
RE: MTLE updates

Policy Change: Pedagogy test required for ECSE
Candidates for ECSE licensure were not required to take a general pedagogy test in the Praxis system. Beginning January 1, 2011, these candidates must pass a pedagogy test to be recommended for ECSE licensure in Minnesota, presumably the Early Childhood pedagogy test.

The rationale under the Praxis series was that the scope of the ECSE license (Birth through age 6) was misaligned to the scope of the pedagogy test (Birth through grade 3). However, the pedagogy tests are aligned to Minnesota’s Standards of Effective Practice and are required for all teaching licenses. We have chosen to have three scope-specific testing options to help assess these standards, but the underlying standards are the same for all. As such, we are now requiring all teachers to pass a pedagogy test.

Recommendations for Praxis tests: Exceptions
The Board of Teaching has been clear and consistent that beginning September 1, 2010, only MTLE tests can be taken for the purpose of Minnesota licensure. The exception to this rule is for candidates who completed all licensure requirements except for testing and were issued a one-year license by Educator Licensing with a renewal condition explicitly stating Praxis as a renewal requirement. In these cases we will honor a passing score from a Praxis test in our former system.

If you have candidates who have documentation of registering for a Praxis test prior to September 1, 2010, and who took and passed a Praxis test on the September 18, 2010, administration, please have them contact me directly by December 31, 2010; we will review individual instances and make determinations about these situations.

NEW test fields
The following endorsement areas did not have content tests in the Praxis series but now have a required content test in the MTLE program:
- Computer, Keyboarding, and Related Technology
- PrePrimary (Age 3 to PreKindergarten)
- Reading Teacher

Beginning September 1, 2010, recommendations for licensure in these fields must include passing the MTLE content test (which consists of two subtests per field).
**MTLE website updates**
We have made ongoing changes to the MTLE site as a result of calls I have received from candidates and faculty as well as input from the staff in Educator Licensing. Two recent changes include:

1. Clarification of the subtest structure on the main “Tests” page as well as all individual test landing pages
2. Clarification about the 2-step registration process (register for subtest(s) and then schedule the test date and time) on the registration pages

Please feel free to send suggestions for additional changes to the website!

**90-day waiting period**
The 90-day window is a function of test security due to the current size of the item banks and the number of test forms available. All test forms have non-scorable items that are being field tested to grow the item banks and establish additional test forms. So we’ll be able to reduce the 90-day period in the future, for sure by September 2011 and possibly before that.

**Preparation materials**
In light of strong concerns about the roll-out timeline for additional study materials, I am working with the Pearson folks to see what options we have to modify this plan. I will let you know as soon as I have more information on this front, but please know that your concerns have been heard on this front!

**Scheduling questions**
There are two types of testing sites in Minnesota for MTLE:

1. Pearson Professional Centers (PPC) sites that are owned and operated by Pearson VUE
2. Pearson VUE-Authorized third-party sites (e.g., Minnesota university computer-based testing centers)

All scheduling is done through Pearson VUE, but the specific scheduling models are slightly different for the third-party sites, which include the St. Cloud, Mankato, and Morris sites. We are actively working on three additional third-party sites in Minnesota and anticipate having them operational by January 2011 (or earlier).

The Pearson VUE Professional Center sites use a model called Efficient Scheduling, which maximizes the available seats at the VUE test centers by preventing checker-boarding in the schedule, i.e., prevents small slots of open times with no examinee assigned to the test station. Without efficient scheduling, we would not be able to test as many examinees in a day in a center.

How does it work? When an examinee registers via the web and selects a test center and a test date, the scheduling system of VUE provides the person with the first four available appointments of the desired day, typically beginning at 8:00 AM. As more examinees are scheduled to test on a particular day, later test sessions then become open for testing appointments. The purpose for this is to help VUE staff its test centers efficiently and not have large gaps in the day when there are no examinees.
Suppose that an examinee wants to test on December 15 at 4:00 PM. If this examinee registers with Pearson VUE too early before December 15, the 4:00 PM time slot may not be available yet because there are earlier time slots in the day that have not yet filled up. If this examinee waits a few days and tries to schedule a test appointment again, there is a better chance that 4:00 PM or perhaps a later time slot will be available. The only exception to this rule is Saturday, because many candidates wish to test on Saturday and these Pearson VUE time slots fill up quickly. If a candidate wishes to test on a Saturday, they should probably schedule their test appointment as early as possible.

If you hear about a candidate that could not get their desired test time, it may be due to Efficient Scheduling. If the candidate tries to schedule a test appointment closer to the desired test date, he or she may be more successful in scheduling a testing appointment at their desired test time later in the day.

The third-party computer test sites do not use Efficient Scheduling, but rather have a set number of seats available at predetermined testing times. However, MTLE candidate would still go through the Pearson VUE scheduling system to schedule their testing appointment.

**Additional test sites**
In addition to finalizing contracts with 3 additional Minnesota third-party test sites, we are monitoring the volume at our current test sites to see if we need to add dates to the MTLE testing window each month. The MTLE computer-based tests are currently administered for at least one week in each month of the year, except for the World Language tests that are administered up to six times each year at paper-based test administrations.

**MTLE contact information**
Please continue to let me know of concerns or suggestions that you have as we make our way through this transition; it is really valuable for me to understand how this is rolling out and how we can make improvements. However, if I am not available and you need technical assistance you can call Evaluation Systems technical assistance support group at 1-800-998-3787. For any other ResultsAnalyzer score reporting inquiries please contact Todd Robbins or John Silvestro directly at todd.robbins@pearson.com or john.silvestro@pearson.com or call at 413.256.0444.