

1. **Testing Transition:** Beginning April 2, 2012 the newly developed Basic Skills (PAPA), Pre K-4, 4-8 and Special Education PK-8 and Special Education 7-12 will be required for undergraduate candidates completing the new certification programs.

Undergraduate candidates who have taken **or registered** for the PPST basic skills test **prior to April 2, 2012** will have their PPST scores accepted by PDE. Candidates who took the PPSTs and were not successful **may retake the PPSTs** after April 2, 2012 until they are successful.

All undergraduate candidates who have not taken or registered for a basic skills prior to April 2, 2012 must take the Pre-professional Academic Performance Assessment (PAPA) provided by Pearson.

Please note: **Post-baccalaureate candidates do not need to take the PPSTs or PAPA.** They are required to take the required subject matter test(s).

Candidates completing the N-3, K-6 and Special Education certificates will continue to take the currently required tests. The tests must be taken and successfully passed by August 31, 2013. Also, candidates for the new PreK-4, 4-8 and Special Education certificates that have taken the tests designated by PDE for the interim period will be able to apply based on those test scores.

Please contact your PDE Liaison with any questions regarding the testing transition.

2. **Interim Testing Policy:** The interim testing policy was announced to IHEs on August 19, 2010. A copy of the policy is included below for your reference.

Pre K-4

- Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge (0511)
- Early Childhood Education (0020)

Grades 4-8

- Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge (0511)
- Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (0011)
- Praxis II content area tests for 7-9 middle level areas

Special Education (PreK-8, 7-12)

- Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge (0511)
- Special Education: Education of Exceptional Students (0354)
- Praxis II content area tests for Elementary Ed (Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge (0511) –or – Praxis II for 7-12 secondary level

3. **Save the Date - Testing Transition Webinars:** The Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality will be holding two webinars to update teacher preparation program leadership and faculty regarding the Testing Transition and answer any questions. The webinars will be held on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, March 6 from 2pm-3pm
- Monday March 12 from 9:30am-10:30 am

TO JOIN THE WEBINAR THE DAY OF THE EVENT

- You may join the webinar up to 30 minutes prior to the start time.
- Go to <http://vclass.cciu.org/>.
- Click the hyperlink for the Meeting Name.
- Login format: Select option to login as a Guest. From there enter your email address and the name you wish to be displayed on the webinar (e.g., Mary Smith – <Organization or District Name>).
- No password is required to enter the webinar.

PRIOR TO THE WEBINAR / IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST WEBINAR USING ELLUMINATE:

- All participants, speakers and moderators must perform a one-time setup and system test before their first Webinar on any computer. Complete this at least two days before the event, in case your system is not configured correctly.
- System requirements are listed at:
<http://www.pdewebinars.org/systemrequirements.php>
- Complete the steps in testing your computer using the configuration room at: <http://www.pdewebinars.org/testyourcomputer.php>

NOTE: If you belong to an agency with a firewall-protected network, you will need to have your network tech person open ports 80 and 2187. You may need to turn off your proxy server if you have problems connecting.

- An "Introduction to Webinars" PowerPoint presentation is provided. Click the link on the webpage: http://www.pdewebinars.org/about_webinars.php

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PLEASE REFER TO THE ELLUMINATE SUPPORT WEBPAGE FOR
ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AT:

- <http://www.elluminate.com/Support/?id=62>
- For additional webinar questions, please contact:
Diane Thomson
Program Development & Support Coordinator
Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU)
484-237-5017
dianet@cciu.org

4. **The Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests (PECT) Web site:** The Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests (PECT) web site at www.pa.nesinc.com has been updated to include complete services and information for PECT candidates, including Internet registration.

Pennsylvania teacher education program undergraduate candidates may now register for the Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment (PAPA) via the PECT web site. Beginning in April 2012, the PAPA will replace the *Praxis / Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST)* as a requirement for undergraduate certification candidates seeking Pennsylvania teacher certification in PreK–4, Special Education PreK–8, and Special Education 7–12. Candidates may now register for the appropriate test via the PECT web site.

The updated web site has been designed to be the center for all PECT program services, information, and transactions. Candidates have direct access to components of the PECT program, including:

- information about the tests that are available and what test(s) they need to take
- information about registering for a test and scheduling a test session (including test dates and sites)
- Information about testing policies and alternative testing arrangements
- test preparation materials, including study guides and full-length practice tests
- information about reference materials provided for a test (e.g., a calculator or glossary)
- information about their test results (i.e., score reports)
- a personal, password-protected account through which they can:
 - ✓ quickly and easily register for a test and schedule a test session
 - ✓ check the status of a registration and modify or cancel a registration, if needed
 - ✓ access individual score reports and testing history

The passing scores for the Pearson administered tests are as follows.

Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment

PECT Module	Item Type(s)	Total Possible Points	Cut (passing) Score
PAPA Module 1 Reading	Selected Response	32	25
PAPA Module 2 Mathematics	Selected Response	32	23
PAPA Module 3 Writing	Selected Response	36	28
	Extended Response	8	6

PreK-4

PECT Module	Item Type(s)	Total Possible Points	Cut (passing) Score
Module 1	Selected Response	32	25
Module 2	Selected Response	40	31
Module 3	Selected Response	40	31

Special Education PreK-8

PECT Module	Item Type(s)	Total Possible Points	Cut (passing) Score
Module 1	Selected Response	36	27
Module 2	Selected Response	36	27

Special Education 7-12

PECT Module	Item Type(s)	Total Possible Points	Cut (passing) Score
Module 1	Selected Response	36	26
Module 2	Selected Response	36	24

We hope this information is helpful to you and your students. If you have any questions, please call Eric Jette at 413-256-2866 or send an e-mail to ES-PECT@pearson.com.

- 5. The Pennsylvania 4-8 ETS Tests and Web Site:** ETS has been awarded the contract to offer the 4-8 certification tests. The tests will be available April 2, 2012. Candidates in the new 4-8 certification programs will be taking the corresponding 4-8 Praxis tests. Candidates for the new PreK-4, 4-8 and Special Education certificates that have taken the tests designated by PDE for the interim period will be able to apply based on those test scores.

The ETS website is currently being revised to include the new 4-8 testing information and a link will be provided to the ETS/Praxis site as soon as the revisions take place.

ETS is expected to submit cut score recommendations to PDE by March 16, 2012. The passing scores will be announced in the weekly email as soon as they are approved by PDE.