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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*

DATE: May 25 - 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Revised Praxis II Assessments
**TEST ADOPTION AND SCORE AFFIRMATION
WORLD LANGUAGES, BUSINESS EDUCATION,
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to seek adoption of six revised Educational Testing Service (ETS) assessments, used for teacher certification, and to affirm a state qualifying score on each assessment. The assessments are: *French, German, Spanish, World Language Pedagogy, Business Education, and Special Education*. All of these content assessments are currently being used in Maryland, but since the revisions are major, each will need a new qualifying score.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Maryland has required state certification assessments since 1987 to assess basic skills, content knowledge and pedagogy skills. These tests provide additional validation that each teacher candidate has entry level content and pedagogy to begin his/her professional career. With rapidly changing content in today's world and new or revised national standards in many content areas, ETS has begun a five year test revision model, known as "regeneration." Regeneration is an 18-24 month process, which begins with a National Advisory Committee (for each test) to provide expert input into the test development, to review the recent research and the latest standards in the field, and to develop the overall structure and test design. A national job analysis is conducted by ETS and a *Test Development Committee* is formed to write items and review them for clarity, content, and equity, and to field test them. Research staff from ETS has designed and conducted multi-state standard setting studies for each test. The standard setting studies involve an expert panel comprised of teachers and college faculty. The study collects content-related validity evidence and then through a statistical process, ends with a recommended qualifying score. By following these procedures, ETS can assure states that they have engaged in a process which insures legal defensibility of the score.

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Six tests that have gone through the above process are ready for Maryland to adopt and set a Maryland qualifying score, based on the standard setting panel recommendation.

Four new World language tests, *French (0174)*, *German (0183)*, *Spanish (0195)* and *World Language Pedagogy (0841)* are aligned with the standards from the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Currently offered in a paper and pencil version, the three content tests in *French*, *German*, and *Spanish*, will be offered online for the first time in October, 2010, at Prometric Centers, and from then on, only online by appointment. This online-only testing is a first for ETS, arising from the need for proficiency in listening and speaking in the foreign language. Candidates listen to questions and answer them by speaking into a microphone that records the results on the computer. The *World Language Pedagogy* test is only for candidates who have not completed Maryland approved programs. This test is offered in pencil and paper version, starting in September, 2010.

The revised *Business Education: Content Knowledge (0101)*, a two-hour 120 multiple-choice test, is aligned with the National Standards for Business Education and the national Education Technology Standards. This test will be offered in a paper and pencil version, with the first administration in September, 2010. In the future, this test will be offered in two formats, paper and online.

The revised *Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (0354)* combines two one-hour special education tests Maryland currently uses, into one two-hour test with 120 multiple-choice items. The content is aligned with the most recent national standards from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). This test will be offered in a paper and pencil version, with the first administration in September, 2010. In the future this test will also move to both formats, paper and online.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

ETS has revised six certification tests that Maryland currently uses: *French*, *German*, *Spanish*, *World Language Pedagogy*, *Business Education* and *Special Education*. Since the revisions were major, and each state determines its own qualifying score, MSDE must adopt a new qualifying score for each test. The multistate study recommendations, which are based on 50 teachers and teacher educators from across the country is the basis of the score recommendations. These tests have yet to be offered, so we have no Maryland data. When there is sufficient data, we will revisit the scores based on Maryland data.

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The scores presented are scale scores ranging from 100-200. Three of the tests, *World Language Pedagogy*, *Business Education* and *Special Education*, will be offered this September 2010. The three World Language content tests, *French*, *German* and *Spanish*, will be offered beginning in October 2010. MSDE will accept the scores from the old tests for one year after the adoption of the new tests. After one year, all candidates must take the new tests.

The following qualifying scores are recommended for adoption of the regenerated tests:

Praxis II World Languages: French (0174)	162
Praxis II World Languages: German (0183)	163
Praxis II World Languages: Spanish (0195)	168
Praxis II: World Language Pedagogy (0841)	158
Praxis II: Business Education (0101)	154
Praxis II: Special Education Core Knowledge and Applications (0354)	151

When there is sufficient Maryland score data, these scores will be revisited.

ACTION:

I am requesting that the State Board adopt the above revised certification tests and affirm the recommended qualifying scores.

NSG/jes