



Minnesota Board of Teaching

TO: Deans and Chairs
FROM: Erin Doan, Executive Director
DATE: November 2014
RE: Updates: Special Education Programs, RIPA reviews, ACT/SAT scores

Happy Thanksgiving to all! As a number of questions have been sent our way, I would like to provide clarification regarding the upcoming deadlines for special education programs, basic skills testing and for the review of new programs being submitted.

Basic Skills Testing

At the October 3rd BOT meeting, Board members set a passing score for the **ACT plus writing** exam, as directed by the MN Legislature in their 2014 Session. Candidates who receive a **composite score of 22 or higher** (including English/Writing) on the ACT plus writing exam will be allowed to demonstrate basic skills by submitting a copy of their score report to both their institution and later, to Educator Licensing. The score setting for the SAT (took place at the November 14th meeting of the Board of Teaching. As a comprehensive composite score that includes writing is not provided on score reports, candidates would be expected to show scores of **510 in Reading, 510 in Writing and 520 in Math**.

Licensing will begin accepting ACT and SAT score reports effective January 1, 2015 and guidance regarding related questions will be forthcoming in December. It is suggested that institutions wait to offer advising on this topic until BOT/MDE guidance has been released.

Special Education Licensure Updates

Pipeline Candidates Completing Programs Under Former Special Education Rules

As we are nearing the end of programs that were approved prior to the 2012 Rule change, the Board of Teaching has been receiving a number of questions regarding candidate requirements and advising. All candidates completing programs under the old rule must fully complete all program requirements prior to January 1, 2015. Candidates may complete testing and supply passing MTLE scores to be recommended for licensure under the old rule until May 30, 2015.

After May 30, 2015 all candidates will be expected to have completed currently approved special education program requirements.

Transcripts to Accompany License Applications

Special Education rule changes in 2012 resulted in programmatic change for many candidates within teacher preparation programs. As it has now been two years since the changes went into effect, Educator Licensing is seeing an increasing number of license recommendations based on pipeline lists. In order to reduce the need for email communication regarding individual applications, licensure officers will need to provide official or unofficial copies of all

transcripts that relate to the completion of licensure course work, for each Minnesota licensure application. This procedure will become **effective for Special Education Licenses, December 1, 2014.**

The requirement to provide transcripts will be required for ALL LICENSURE FIELDS, effective March 1, 2015.

Please contact me (erin.doan@state.mn.us) or Richard Wassen (richard.wassen@state.mn.us) with any questions or concerns.

DAPE licensure

There have been an increasing number of complications for both the approval of DAPE programs and DAPE licensure for out of state candidates since the changes to rule were made in 2012. The Board of Teaching heard from institutions and candidates regarding these issues at its November 14th meeting. Representatives from MDE Special Education Policy, MN Institutions and candidates who provided testimony regarding the need for changes to the licensure rule. The Board of Teaching was asked to consider entering into expedited rulemaking to address the issue in the months ahead and they will be discussing next steps at the December 12th meeting.

Requests for Initial Program Approval (RIPA)

All Requests for Initial Program Approval applications must now be submitted via the Educator Preparation Program Application System (EPPAS). It is recommended that you email Board Staff to inform us when a RIPA application has been submitted. To ensure a timely review for launch the final version of the program application must be submitted by the unit leader in EPPAS 6 months prior to your expected date for launch of the program.

Please also note that nonconventional programs may take additional time as statutory requirements also need to be reviewed. If waiver requests are part of the application, the full Board of Teaching must hear them and act on those requests specifically.