

**To: Members of the State Board of
Education & Early Development**

January 22, 2025

From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Agenda Item: 6B

◆ ISSUE

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 12.407 (1-3). Content area examinations. The amendments are intended to update discontinued Praxis II titles with their replacement titles and required scores, as well as to include additional content area exams offered through Pearson, some of which feature a flexible (FLEX) option.

◆ BACKGROUND

- Every 5-7 years, Educational Testing Services (ETS) evaluates a set of exams. Titles are discontinued and replaced with a new title and recommended required passing score. ETS conducts a multistate standard-setting technical report for each examination every 5-7 years.
- The following exams have been discontinued, or will be discontinued during 2024, and will be removed from DEED's offered exams:
 - Biology Content Knowledge (5023 or 0235)
 - Chemistry Content Knowledge (5245 or 0254)
 - General Science Content Knowledge (Part1, Part 2)
 - Physics Content Knowledge (5265)
 - Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood (5691)
 - Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354)
- In 2024, Evaluation Systems of Pearson (Pearson) developed a new FLEX exam series designed to better evaluate the knowledge and skills of candidates who have struggled to achieve the required cut scores for assessment. The FLEX is a flexible method that becomes available to prospective educators who score within one standard error of measurement of the state approved exam cut score. It allows the candidate to showcase their functional content knowledge and diverse skills. It allows candidates to submit individualized, context-based evidence of their proficiency in a subject area through a template-driven submission in the Pearson ePortfolio system and is scored by a third-party partner.
- DEED is adding the following Pearson Evaluation Series content area exams, with the FLEX testing options, as they become available according to release dates. The added exams are:
 - Elementary Education Subtest I
 - Elementary Education Subtest II
 - English Language Arts
 - English Learners I
 - English Learners I
 - Foundations of Reading
 - Mathematics

- Middle Grades English Language Arts
 - Middle Grades General Science
 - Social Science
 - Spanish
- A copy of the proposed regulations follows this cover memo.

◆ OPTIONS

Open a period of public comment.
Seek more information.
Adopt the proposed regulations.

◆ ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

Open a period of public comment.

◆ SUGGESTED MOTION

I move the State Board of Education & Early Development post for public comment the proposed revisions to 4 AAC 12.407 (1-3). Content area examinations.