

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby amends Chapter 79, “Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs,” Iowa Administrative Code.

2012 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2284, section 39, amended Iowa Code section 256.16 regarding pretesting of candidates for admission to teacher preparation programs. Whereas presently teacher preparation programs are required to administer a “basic skills test” to admission candidates, the new legislation requires that the test be “a preprofessional skills test offered by a nationally recognized testing service.” The new legislation also imposes a new requirement that, prior to completion of the program, each student in a teacher preparation program achieve scores above the 25th percentile nationally on an assessment that measures pedagogy and knowledge of at least one subject area. The amendments implement this legislation.

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the August 22, 2012, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 0299C**. Public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. on September 11, 2012. On that date, a public hearing was held, and three persons attended. One written comment was received.

These amendments have been revised since publication under Notice to make clear that the changes to paragraph 79.15(7)“a” reflect the changes to Iowa Code section 256.16 mandated by 2012 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2284, section 39. This revision also reflects a written comment received during the public comment period. An effective date for the amendment has also been indicated so as to not unduly burden practitioner preparation candidates who are completing a practitioner program during the current academic term.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement 2012 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2284, section 39, and Iowa Code section 256.16.

These amendments will become effective January 2, 2013.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend paragraph **79.13(2)“c”** as follows:

c. For teacher preparation programs, the system includes the administration of a basic preprofessional skills test offered by a nationally recognized testing service, with program admission denied to any applicant who fails to achieve the institution’s designated criterion score.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 79.15(1) as follows:

79.15(1) Prior to admission to the teacher preparation program, each teacher candidate attains the qualifying score determined by the unit on a basic preprofessional skills test of reading, writing, and mathematics. administered pursuant to paragraph 79.13(2)“c.”

ITEM 3. Amend paragraph **79.15(7)“a”** as follows:

a. *Content/subject matter specialization.* The candidate demonstrates an understanding of the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structure of the discipline(s) the candidate teaches and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of the subject matter meaningful for students. This is evidenced by a completion of a 30-semester-hour teaching major which must minimally include the requirements for at least one of the basic endorsement areas, special education teaching endorsements, or secondary level occupational endorsements. Each candidate must achieve a score above the 25th percentile nationally on subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge of at least one subject area. Additionally, each elementary candidate must also complete a field of specialization in a single discipline or a formal interdisciplinary program of at least 12 semester hours.

These requirements will become effective January 2, 2013.

[Filed 11/7/12, effective 1/2/13]

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 11/28/12.