

256.16 Specific criteria for teacher preparation and certain educators.

1. Pursuant to [section 256.7, subsection 5](#), the state board shall adopt rules requiring all higher education institutions providing practitioner preparation to do the following:

a. (1) If the institution administers a preprofessional skills test offered by a nationally recognized testing service to practitioner preparation program admission candidates, the institution shall report to the department no later than August 1 annually, in the form and manner prescribed by the department, the percentage of students whose scores on the assessments administered during the prior fiscal year were above, at, and below the minimum passing score set by the institution, and shall report any services or opportunities to retake the assessment the institution may make available to a student who fails assessment. The department shall compile the reports submitted under this subparagraph and publish the compiled information on its internet site.

(2) Administer, prior to a student's completion of the practitioner preparation program and subject to the director's approval, subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge of at least one subject area; or, a valid and reliable subject-area-specific, performance-based assessment for preservice teacher candidates, centered on student learning. A student shall not successfully complete the program unless the scores achieved by the student on the assessments administered under this subparagraph are at or above the minimum passing scores set by the department.

(a) In setting the minimum passing scores for purposes of this subparagraph, the department shall consider all of the following:

(i) Scores required for similar tests in all of the states contiguous to Iowa.

(ii) The supply and demand imbalance of content areas or teaching positions currently experienced in Iowa.

(b) A student who successfully completes the practitioner preparation program as required under this subparagraph shall be deemed to have attained a passing score on the assessments administered under this subparagraph even if the department subsequently sets different minimum passing scores.

b. Include preparation in reading theory, knowledge, strategies, and approaches; and for integrating literacy instruction into content areas. Such preparation shall address all students, including but not limited to students with disabilities; students who are at risk of academic failure; students who have been identified as gifted and talented or limited English proficient; and students with dyslexia, whether or not such students have been identified as children requiring special education under [chapter 256B](#).

c. Include in the professional education program, preparation that contributes to the education of students with disabilities and students who are gifted and talented, and preparation in classroom management addressing high-risk behaviors including, but not limited to, behaviors related to substance abuse. Preparation required under this paragraph must be successfully completed before graduation from the practitioner preparation program.

d. Require that each student admitted to an approved practitioner preparation program participate in field experiences that include both observation and participation in teaching activities in a variety of school settings. These field experiences shall comprise a total of at least fifty hours in duration, at least ten hours of which shall occur prior to a student's acceptance in an approved practitioner preparation program. The student teaching experience shall be a minimum of fourteen weeks in duration during the student's final year of the practitioner preparation program. The program shall make every reasonable effort to offer the student teaching experience prior to a student's last semester, or equivalent, in the program, and to expand the student's student teaching opportunities beyond one semester or the equivalent.

e. Require that faculty members in professional education maintain an ongoing involvement in activities in elementary, middle, or secondary schools. The activities shall include at least forty hours of team teaching during a period not exceeding five years in duration at the elementary, middle, or secondary level.

f. Include instruction in skills and strategies to be used in classroom management of individuals, and of small and large groups, under varying conditions; skills for

communicating and working constructively with pupils, teachers, administrators, and parents; preparation in reading theory, knowledge, strategies, and approaches, and for integrating literacy instruction into content areas in accordance with [this section](#); and skills for understanding the role of the state board and the functions of other education agencies in the state. Rules adopted in accordance with this paragraph shall be based upon recommendations of the department after consultation with teacher education faculty members in colleges and universities.

g. Prescribe minimum experiences and responsibilities to be accomplished during the student teaching experience by the student teacher and by the cooperating teacher based upon recommendations of the department after consultation with teacher education faculty members in colleges and universities. The student teaching experience shall include opportunities for the student teacher to become knowledgeable about the Iowa teaching standards, including but not limited to a mock evaluation performed by the cooperating teacher. The mock evaluation shall not be used as an assessment tool by the practitioner preparation program. The student teaching experience shall consist of interactive experiences involving the college or university personnel, the student teacher, the cooperating teacher, and administrative personnel from the cooperating teacher's school district.

h. Offer annually a workshop of at least one day in duration for prospective cooperating teachers. The workshop shall define the objectives of the student teaching experience, review the responsibilities of the cooperating teacher, and provide the cooperating teacher with other information and assistance the institution deems necessary.

i. Provide practitioner preparation students with instruction in the use of electronic technology for classroom and instructional purposes.

j. Annually solicit the views of the education community regarding the institution's practitioner preparation programs.

k. Submit evidence that the college or department of education in the institution is communicating with other colleges or departments in the institution so that practitioner preparation students may integrate teaching methodology with subject matter areas of specialization.

l. Submit evidence that the performance evaluation of a student teacher is a cooperative process that involves both the faculty member supervising the student teacher and the cooperating teacher. The rules shall require that each institution develop a written evaluation procedure for use by the cooperating teacher and a form for evaluating student teachers, and require that a copy of the completed form be included in the student teacher's permanent record.

m. If the rules adopted by the board of educational examiners for issuance of any type or class of license require an applicant to complete work in student teaching, pre-student teaching experiences, field experiences, practicums, clinicals, or internships, enter into a written contract with any school district, accredited nonpublic school, preschool registered or licensed by the department of human services, or area education agency in Iowa, to provide for such work under terms and conditions as agreed upon by the contracting parties. The terms and conditions of a written contract entered into with a preschool pursuant to this paragraph shall require that a student teacher be under the direct supervision of an appropriately licensed cooperating teacher who is employed to teach at the preschool. Students actually teaching or engaged in preservice licensure activities in a school district under the terms of such a contract are entitled to the same protection under [section 670.8](#) as is afforded by that section to officers and employees of the school district, during the time such students are so assigned.

2. A person initially applying for a license shall successfully complete a practitioner preparation program approved under [section 256.7, subsection 3](#), and containing the subject matter specified in [this section](#), before the initial action by the board of educational examiners under [chapter 272](#) takes place. However, [this subsection](#) shall not apply to a person who meets the requirements for an initial one-year license in accordance with [subsection 3](#).

3. The state board shall adopt rules under [chapter 17A](#) to provide that the director shall waive the assessment requirements of [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), for

not more than one year for a person who has completed the course requirements for an approved practitioner preparation program but attained an assessment score below the minimum passing scores set by the department for successful completion of the program under [subsection 1](#), paragraph “a”, subparagraph (2).

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §1416](#); [89 Acts, ch 265, §27](#); [96 Acts, ch 1129, §67](#); [99 Acts, ch 191, §1](#); [2012 Acts, ch 1119, §39](#); [2016 Acts, ch 1078, §1](#); [2018 Acts, ch 1057, §6](#); [2019 Acts, ch 30, §2](#) – 4; [2020 Acts, ch 1085, §1](#)

Referred to in [§256.7, 272.2](#)

For future amendment to subsection 1, paragraph c, effective July 1, 2021, see [2020 Acts, ch 1108, §2, 16](#)
Subsection 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (1) amended