

281—77.11(256) Assessment standard. The teacher intern preparation program shall utilize a clearly defined assessment system based on program standards and include both individual candidate assessment and comprehensive program assessment.

77.11(1) The teacher intern assessment system shall be used by the teacher intern preparation program to appropriately monitor individual candidate performance and to evaluate and improve the intern program.

77.11(2) Candidate assessment includes clear criteria for the following:

a. Acceptance into the program (to include testing described in Iowa Code section 256.16). Acceptance requirements include but are not limited to:

(1) Completion of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution, meeting program-established required grade point criteria for the baccalaureate degree and content area;

(2) Completion of coursework that meets the state minimum requirements for at least one of the BOEE's secondary endorsement areas; and

(3) Screening designed to generate information about the prospective candidate's attributes identified as essential for candidates in the program.

b. Continuation in the program with clearly defined checkpoints/gates, to include:

(1) For formal admission, a requirement that candidates have successfully passed a preprofessional skills test at the level approved by the program before beginning an internship; and

(2) Verification of an offer of employment as an intern from a school or district administrator.

c. Program completion and subsequent recommendation by the authorized official of the program for an initial teaching license, to include:

(1) The requirement that each teacher candidate must either meet or exceed a score on subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized testing service that measures pedagogy and knowledge of at least one subject area as approved by the director, or the teacher candidate must meet or exceed the equivalent of a score on an alternate assessment also approved by the director. That alternate assessment must be a valid and reliable subject-area-specific, performance-based assessment for preservice teacher candidates that is centered on student learning. The required passing score will be determined by the director using considerations described in Iowa Code section 256.16(1) "a"(2) as amended by 2019 Iowa Acts, Senate File 159, section 2. A candidate 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.

(2) Waiver by the director of the assessment requirements in this paragraph for not more than one year for a person who has completed the course requirements for an approved intern preparation program but attained an assessment score below the minimum passing score set by the department for successful completion of the program under this paragraph. The department shall forward to the BOEE the names of all candidates granted a waiver for consideration for a temporary license.

77.11(3) Individual candidate assessment includes all of the following:

a. Measures used for candidate assessment are fair, reliable, and valid;

b. Candidates are assessed on their demonstration/attainment of program standards;

c. Multiple measures are used for assessment of the candidate on each program standard;

d. Candidates are assessed on program standards at different developmental stages;

e. Candidates are provided with formative feedback on their progress toward attainment of program standards; and

f. Candidates use the provided formative assessment data to reflect upon and guide their development and growth toward attainment of program standards.

77.11(4) Comprehensive program assessment includes all of the following:

a. Individual candidate assessment data on program standards are analyzed;

b. The aggregated assessment data are analyzed to evaluate the program;

c. Findings from the evaluation of aggregated assessment data are used to make program improvements;

d. Evaluation data are shared with stakeholders; and

e. The collection, aggregation, analysis, and evaluation of assessment data take place on a regular cycle.

77.11(5) The program shall conduct a survey of graduates and their employers to ensure that the graduates are well-prepared, and the data shall be used for program improvement.

77.11(6) The program shall regularly review, evaluate, and revise the assessment system.

77.11(7) The program shall annually report to the department such as is required by the state and federal governments.

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