



TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*

SUBJECT: The Department Will Review the Pass Rates of the New and Revised Certification Examinations at the Institution Level

DATE: June 8, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Elizabeth B Berlin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Since September 2013, the Department has implemented several new teacher certification examinations to ensure that students in New York are taught by teachers who have demonstrated their ability, through the successful completion of their preparation program and by successful completion of the new set of examinations, to be effective classroom teachers. The Department will present data for both program test takers and program completers.

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of policy.

Discussion

Since September 2013, the Department has made operational three new teacher certification examinations, the Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST), the Educating All Students test (EAS), and the teacher performance assessment (edTPA). Each examination was developed to assess a variety of knowledge, skills and abilities that are crucial for an effective teacher.

As a matter of practice and as required by federal Title II regulations, the Department collects data at the institution level regarding the pass rates of their students on the teacher certification examinations. The Department will present pass rate data for both program enrollees and program completers. For program completers,

this data is published every year on the federal Department of Education website, <https://title2.ed.gov/Public/Home.aspx>. On that website, the public may access data regarding the certification of teachers in New York, broken down by program.

Pass rates for teacher certification examinations as reported to the federal government pursuant to Title II is for those candidates who have completed and been recommended by their program for certification. This data provides a more accurate picture of candidate performance than the general pass rate data, which includes results for those individuals who have not completed a program, and those who may not be enrolled in a program. The current program completer data, which covers a period from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014, will be posted on the federal Department of Education website by early 2016. This data reflects certification examination performance by candidates who completed their programs, as reported by their programs, in December 2013 and January 2014, and in May 2014 and June 2014.

It is important to note that candidates who completed their programs before May 1, 2014, the date the ALST, EAS and edTPA became required for certification in New York State, could have completed their certification requirements by successfully taking and passing the prior teacher certification examinations - the Assessment of Teaching Skills-Written (ATS-W) and the Liberal Arts and Sciences Test (LAST). Therefore, the program completer certification examination pass rate data reported pursuant to Title II for the ALST, EAS and edTPA does not capture all program completer data. In addition, it is important to look at both program completers and general pass rate data since some institutions may not report an individual as a program completer until after they have passed the required certification examinations. Because the ALST, EAS and edTPA became required for certification on and after May 1, 2014, the next Title II reporting period, spanning from September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015, will represent program completer pass rates on the new certification examinations for all program completers during this period.

In addition, the Department will present the number of individuals who have retaken each of the assessments.

Recommendation

Not applicable.