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Proposed Options for Safety Nets for the New Teacher Certification Examinations (ALST, EAS, and Revised CSTs)

Board of Regents

April 14, 2015



Description of the New and Revised Certification Examinations

- **edTPA is a multiple measure performance assessment comprised of three tasks:**
 - **planning instruction and examination**
 - **instructing and engaging students in learning**
 - **assessing student learning**
- **The Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST) measures skills and competencies in reading and writing aligned to college and career-readiness standards including:**
 - **analyzing text structure**
 - **writing to sources**
 - **using valid reasoning and relevant evidence to support claims**

Description of the New and Revised Certification Examinations

- **The Educating All Students (EAS) examination measures skills and competencies that address:**
 - **diverse student populations**
 - **English Language Learners (ELLs)**
 - **students with disabilities and other special learning needs**
 - **teacher responsibilities**
 - **school-home relationships**
- **The Content Specialty Tests (CSTs) measure content knowledge in a particular subject area, and are aligned with the New York State learning standards.**

Supports for the New and Revised Certification Exams

The Higher Education Faculty Development Agreements with SUNY, CUNY and the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu) provided \$11.5 million of Race to the Top funds for professional development opportunities designed to bolster resources for schools of education faculty and support their efforts to prepare students for these new and revised examinations.

Project Year 2 2013-2014	Total Meetings	Total Participants
SUNY	2,149	8,765
CUNY	1,884	6,115
clcu	2,862	5,759
TOTAL	6,895	20,693

Supports for the New and Revised Certification Examinations

These workshops and meetings have resulted in institution-developed resources to assist with preparing certification candidates for the new examinations:

- CUNY Brooklyn College faculty have developed EAS practice materials for candidates, which can be found at www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/education/certification/exams.php;
- clcu held a statewide conference in Albany with presentations on the EAS, ALST and edTPA; those presentations may be found at <http://www.isnetworked.org/page/isnetworked-june-18-2014-conference-66.html>.
- SUNY has created a new online resource center which contains a media library designed to support candidates who are preparing for the new certification examinations, which is located at <https://dspace.sunyconnect.suny.edu/handle/1951/65104>.

Pass Rate Data for 2013-2014: All Test Takers vs. Title II Program Completers

The Department has gathered preliminary data on pass rates for program completers derived from Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) as part of their Title II Federal Reporting Requirement for 2013-2014. These data represent individuals identified by their IHE who have completed their teacher preparation program and have taken the ALST, EAS and edTPA. The pass rates for all NY test takers are compared with the pass rates for Title II program completers in the table below:

	<u>Number of Test Takers</u>	<u>% Passing</u>	<u>Number of Program Completers</u>	<u>% Passing</u>
ALST	12,612	68%	4,481	81%
EAS	11,169	78%	4,468	86%
edTPA	4,513	83%	3,242	94%

Safety Net Options for Candidates Who Take and Fail the ALST or EAS

ALST	EAS
<p>Option 1: Have the higher education program the candidate attends, or attended, complete an attestation that the candidate has demonstrated comparable skills through course completion in their program (i.e., 3 semester hours of acceptable coursework in ELA and/or writing skills and the candidate must achieve a score of a B or better in the coursework); or</p>	<p>Option 1: Have the higher education program the candidate attends, or attended, complete an attestation that the candidate has demonstrated comparable skills through course completion in their program (i.e., 3 semester hours of acceptable coursework in special education and 3 semester hours in English Language Learners and the candidate had a B or better in the coursework); or</p>
<p>Option 2: Convene a standard setting panel, much like the panel established to recommend the current ALST cut score, to revise the cut score during the Safety Net timeframe.</p>	<p>Option 2: Convene a standard setting panel, much like the panel established to recommend the current EAS cut score, to revise the cut score during the Safety Net timeframe.</p>

Safety Net Options for Candidates Who Take and Fail the Redeveloped Content Specialty Tests (CSTs)

Option 1: Have the higher education program the candidate attends, or attended, complete an attestation that the candidate has demonstrated comparable skills through course completion in their program (i.e., 3 semester hours of acceptable coursework in the content area and the candidate must achieve a score of a B or better in the coursework); or

Option 2: Convene a standard setting panel, much like the panel established to recommend the current CST cut scores, to establish a revised score for each of the redeveloped CSTs during the Safety Net timeframe.

Option 3: Allow the candidate to take and pass the predecessor of the redeveloped CST currently required.

Safety Net Options

Extension of the edTPA Safety Net

At its April 2014 meeting, the Board of Regents created the edTPA Safety Net. The edTPA Safety Net allows candidates who take and fail edTPA to either: (i) take and pass ATS-W; or (ii) submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory passing score on ATS-W on or before April 30, 2014, in lieu of retaking and achieving a passing score on edTPA through June 30, 2015.

At its January 2015 Board of Regents meeting, the Board proposed an amendment to the regulation to allow candidates an additional year, until June 30, 2016, to complete all other certification requirements so long as they (i) took and failed the edTPA and (ii) either took and passed the ATS-W; or submitted evidence of having achieved a satisfactory passing score on ATS-W on or before April 30, 2014.

Conclusion: The Department recommends that, if the Board creates safety net(s) for the ALST, EAS or the CSTs, that the edTPA safety be extended until June 30, 2016; to be coterminous with the other examinations.

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Thank you.

