



Minnesota Board of Teaching

TO: Deans and Chairs
FROM: Erin Doan, Executive Director
DATE: October 2014
RE: Updates

The last year has been filled with change at the Board of Teaching and we have many updates to share! Please note that the new phone number for our main line will be changing November 1st. You may reach our general number by phoning, 651-582-8888.

1. Staffing

As of October 22nd, the Board of Teaching is once again fully staffed. We welcomed Lori Rosenthal (Office Manager) and Alex Liuzzi (Teacher Education Specialist) to our team in October and look forward to better meeting the needs of your institutions as we move forward. We thank you for your support over the course of the last year and for your continued patience as they work to take in a lot of new information very quickly!

2. Licensure Updates

Transcripts to Accompany License Applications

Special Education rule changes in 2012 resulted in programmatic change for many candidates within teacher preparation programs. As it has now been two years since the changes went into effect, Educator Licensing is seeing an increasing number of license recommendations based on pipeline lists. In order to reduce the need for email communication regarding individual applications, licensure officers will need to provide official or unofficial copies of all transcripts that relate to the completion of licensure course work, for each Minnesota licensure application. This procedure will become **effective for Special Education Licenses, December 1, 2014.**

The requirement to provide transcripts will be required for ALL LICENSURE FIELDS, effective March 1, 2015.

Please contact me (erin.doan@state.mn.us) or Richard Wassen (richard.wassen@state.mn.us) with any questions or concerns.

DAPE licensure

There have been an increasing number of complications for both the approval of DAPE programs and DAPE licensure for out of state candidates since the changes to rule were made in 2012. The Board of Teaching will be hearing about these issues at its November 14th meeting. Representatives from MDE Special Education Policy, MN Institutions and candidates will be present to provide testimony regarding the need for changes to the licensure rule. Should you wish to attend to share your insights, we welcome your comments as a part of the meeting that day.

Upcoming Training – Save the Date

Thursday, February 12th, 2015 (Day prior to Feb. MACTE meeting)

A Licensure Officer’s Training will be held early in the day at the MDE Conference center, with a follow up training provided for **Assisting Out of State Candidates** with transcript evaluation and transition to full Minnesota licensure. Times for each of the two trainings are yet to be determined, though we thought it important that you have time to inform the relevant individuals on each campus as soon as possible. We are trying to arrange for WebEx delivery of the trainings that day as well to ensure that all have access to the information. We will be distributing information regarding the trainings via both the licensure officer mailings from MDE as well as the Deans and Chairs email updates from the Board of Teaching. Mark your calendars to join us if you are able!

3. Request for Middle Level Coursework

In January 2014, the Minnesota Board of Teaching adopted several recommendations for “streamlining the application process for out of state candidates”. In response to these recommendations, documentation of available middle level course work is requested to assist teachers prepared in out-of-state programs to meet identified deficiencies in scope (e.g.; Middle Level Methods, Adolescent Psychology, and Reading in the Content Area). Teachers who are issued restricted grades 7-12 teaching licenses will be provided with a list of approved courses that will allow completers to obtain a 5-12 MN license – much like the process currently being used for Reading and Human Relations coursework. To have your already approved middle level course offerings listed as enrollment options for licensed 7-12 teachers prepared out- of- state, please contact JoAnn Van Aernum at: joann.vanaernum@state.mn.us.

4. edTPA

Standard Setting

In early August, educator representatives across the profession were gathered to review candidate portfolios and engage in the work of standard setting. A final report was issued by SCALE and Pearson conveying the recommendations of the group to the Board of Teaching. The full report is now available on the BOT website, meeting archive.

http://mn.gov/board-of-teaching/images/MN%2520Report_09%252008%25202014.pdf

Based on both the recommendations from the standard setting activity in addition to recommendations provided by the edTPA steering committee, the Board adopted the following edTPA standards for use in the program effectiveness report for continuous approval (PERCA) process, at its October 3, 2014 meeting.

A minimum of 70% of candidates in each program are expected to achieve the recommended standard for each task:

Planning: 13

Instruction: 13

Assessment: 12

Keep in mind that program volume is identified within the EPPAS system, and a program pass rate below 70% in any given domain will result in a more detailed review, not as a sole measure of program disapproval.

Board of Teaching action, 2014-15 expectations

The Board of Teaching adopted the following recommendations from the edTPA Steering Committee at their April 12, 2013 meeting. These expectations are now in effect for all program completers in Minnesota.

1. Full edTPA participation; all programs will require all teacher candidates doing student teaching to complete the edTPA.
2. All candidates completing student teaching must submit to Pearson for official scoring.
3. Elementary Education programs may locally determine which K-6 handbook candidates will use (literacy vs. mathematics).

Minnesota edTPA website

The Minnesota edTPA website was developed with the help of P-12 school partners. While we hope that the site is valuable to faculty members the target audience is external stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, families, and policymakers. Please share this site with your colleagues, both within and outside of your institution!

<http://www.edtpaminnesota.org/>

5. Testing

At the October 3rd BOT meeting, Board members set a passing score for the **ACT plus writing** exam, as directed by the MN Legislature in their 2014 Session. Candidates who receive a **composite score of 22 or higher** will be allowed to demonstrate basic skills by submitting an ACT score report to both their institution and later, to Educator Licensing. Licensing will begin accepting ACT score reports effective January 1, 2015 and guidance regarding related questions will be forthcoming.

The College Board has not yet provided feedback or data in response to the Board's request for SAT related information. We have gathered data from other testing sources and from psychometricians at ACT to provide a recommended equivalent SAT score to the Board. An SAT score setting will take place in November or December. SAT score reports will also be accepted to meet MTLE basic skills requirements effective January 1, 2015.

An RFP for teacher testing in Minnesota will be released before the end of the calendar year. The current contract with Pearson for MTLE expires in August 2015.

6. Unit and Program Approval Redesign

Rulemaking Process

At the September 12th meeting of the Board of Teaching, members adopted the proposed rules regarding unit and program approval, effective January 1, 2016 (with changes made as a result of feedback during the hearing and comment period). At this time, the rules are waiting within the 14 day review period at the Office of the Governor. Provided the Governor approves the rules to move forward, the final notice of adoption will be published in the State Register. A final copy of the rules is posted on the BOT website until they are reflected online. A summary of the documents provided within the rulemaking process are also available there for your review.

<http://mn.gov/board-of-teaching/board-operations/initiatives/>.

Please note that the rule adoption date is not the same as the effective date. As such, programs in both years of the first PERCA cycle will be reporting on their current programs, as approved under the current rule language.

EPPAS submissions

The former PEPER website is no longer operational. All new requests for initial program approval must be made within the EPPAS system.

Half of the MN teacher preparation institutions were scheduled to submit their PERCA reports in the first round of reporting which were due by May 2014. Of the sixteen reporting institutions, eleven have successfully completed the reporting process, and five are still submitting reports. Of the fifteen institutions scheduled to submit reports this fall, nine institutions have submitted their RIPA reports and are proceeding with the final PERCA submissions. There are six institutions that have not yet started the reporting process.

For programs that expire in June 2015, the PERCA reports are due by December 31, 2014. To meet that deadline, the RIPAs should be entered into EPPAS as soon as possible so that they can be audited and “approved”. An approval status on the RIPA application enables the program report to be converted to a PERCA application to be submitted by December. We will process reports in the order they are received. RIPA reports submitted for the first time in mid-November may not allow sufficient time for them to be audited and resubmitted as PERCA by the end of December.

As for the EPPAS system itself, it has been functioning as planned with only a minor glitch in the “print” function that is being addressed by our tech support at this time. Please contact joann.vanaernum@state.mn.us with any questions.

MACTE Congress – November 6th

Unfortunately, JoAnn and I will be unable to join you for the MACTE meeting on November 5th, as we will be attending a national conference to connect with colleagues who are working on solutions to some of the same issues we are grappling with here in MN. I will be joining you during the afternoon of November 6th and will be available for discussing current questions and concerns you may have. Until then, thank you for the investments you make in the lives of Minnesota teachers and students every day! I look forward to joining you next week.