



August 23, 2016

## 2016 CERTIFICATION UPDATE

The Pennsylvania Department of Education announced two important certification changes:

### 1. New Grades 5-6 Add-on Option for Grades PK-4 Certificate Holders

Educators who hold a certificate that allows them to teach grades PK-4 may now add grades 5 and 6 to their certificate. To qualify for the expanded certificate, applicants must take and pass two test modules and submit an application in TIMS (PDE's Teacher Information Management System). The required tests are:

- Pennsylvania Grades 4-8: Module 2 – English Language Arts & Social Studies (5154)
- Pennsylvania Grades 4-8: Module 3 – Mathematics & Science (5155)

Information on certification and registering for add-on testing is available at [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov). TIMS can be accessed at <http://www.teachercertification.pa.gov/Screens/wfSearchEducators.aspx>.

### 2. PAPA (Pre-Service Academic Performance Assessment) and Core Academic Basic Skills Passing Score for Math

PDE announced new passing scores on the PAPA and Core Academic Basic Skills tests. The new passing scores are:

- 193 for the PAPA Basic Skills Mathematics (test 8002)
- 142 for the Core Academic Skills for Educators: Mathematics (test 5732)

**Candidates should not re-take the test if they have already achieved a passing score under the new standards.** The Passed/Not Passed status for all candidates who have already tested since the inception of the test will be updated in their personal account on the PECT (Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests) website (<http://www.pa.nesinc.com>) under the "My Account" tab. For example, candidates with a scaled score from 193 to 219 on PAPA Module 2 will have their status changed from "Not Passed" to "Passed."

Individuals who have now passed can contact the PDE Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality at (717) 787-3356 or live chat to inquire about updating their certification status.

Questions about assessment materials, administration, and procedures should be directed to PDE at 717-787-4234 or 717-705-2343.

*Members with specific questions regarding the new grade add-on or the new math cut score may contact Chris Clayton in the Education Services Department at [cclayton@psea.org](mailto:cclayton@psea.org) or 800-944-7732, ext. 7028.*