



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

STEPHEN L. BOWEN
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: #VI.E.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Steven L. Bowen, Commissioner*

DATE: June 13, 2012

SUBJECT: Approval of recommendation of the Certification and Higher Education Committee to proceed with Rulemaking of Chapter 13, Qualifying Examinations of Teachers, Educational Specialists and Administrators, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

BACKGROUND: The proposed changes to Chapter 13 stem from the ongoing revision (regeneration) process employed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Each Praxis exam undergoes regeneration approximately every five years. The end result is a recommended cut off score that is deemed appropriate for the just qualified candidate (JQC) as established by a multi-state standard setting study conducted by ETS. Maine's required tests and scores must then be updated in Chapter 13.

The proposed changes to Chapter 13 include new test codes, recommended cut off scores, and language to allow old tests no longer being administered to be used for up to five years after which time only the new tests will be accepted. Two tests will be transferred from an older scoring system to a new score to align with the current score system; no changes were made to the tests. Another change will involve changing the Praxis II content knowledge exam used for the general elementary endorsement. The new test will move Maine closer to being in line with tests used in the other New England states and provide prospective employers more detailed information of teachers' measured knowledge in four separate areas: language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

PROPOSED TIMELINE:

File with the Secretary of State's Office – June 19, 2012
Posting – June 27, 2012
Public Hearing – July 18, 2012
Deadline for Comments – July 30, 2012
Deadline for Response to Comments – August 3, 2012
Final Adoption – August 15, 2012

RECOMMENDATION: The State Board of Education's Certification and Higher Education Committee recommends that the State Board of Education initiate rulemaking to allow the proposed amendments listed above to be made to Chapter 13 in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

*Completed by Mark A. Cyr, Certification Coordinator, Maine Department of Education