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To: Deans/Directors of NYS Institutions Offering Teacher Preparation Programs
Certification Officers
edTPA Coordinators
Other Interested Parties

From: John L. D'Agati 

Subject: Certification Exam Safety Nets

At its May 2015 meeting, the Board of Regents, by emergency regulation, extended the edTPA Safety Net and created safety nets for the Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST), Educating All Students test (EAS), and certain redeveloped Content Specialty Tests (CSTs).

These safety nets will be effective through June 30, 2016. If necessary, candidates may take advantage of multiple safety nets in order to meet the requirements for certification and will have until June 30, 2017, one year later, to meet all other certification requirements.

Any exam requirement to be satisfied by one of the safety nets must be satisfied on or before June 30, 2016. For example, a candidate who has failed both the edTPA and the ALST may use both applicable safety nets. However, all the requirements for the edTPA Safety Net and the ALST Safety Net must be met on or before June 30, 2016; the candidate will then have one additional year, until June 30, 2017, to complete all other requirements (example: coursework; DASA training).

edTPA

The Board extended the existing edTPA Safety Net by one year. Any candidate who takes and fails to receive an acceptable passing numeric score on the edTPA may take and pass the ATS-W on or before June 30, 2016 in lieu of retaking and passing the edTPA, or use the ATS-W if the ATS-W was passed prior to May 1, 2014.

Academic Literacy Skills Test

The ALST Safety Net allows any candidate who takes and fails the ALST to submit an attestation signed by the dean or chief academic officer of their school of education, attesting that the candidate has demonstrated comparable literacy skills consistent with what would be assessed by the ALST through course completion and that the candidate received a 3.0 grade point average or higher in such coursework. An attestation form will be available on the Office of Teaching Initiatives website in the near future. This safety net will be implemented retroactively and will apply to anyone who has failed the ALST.

Educating All Students

The Board of Regents has directed the Department to amend the passing standard for the EAS to establish a temporary “Safety Net passing score” which, when implemented, will be applied retroactively to every candidate who has taken the EAS since it became operational.

All previous EAS submissions will be reviewed to determine if those who failed the EAS would have passed the assessment under the Safety Net passing score. If a candidate has previously taken and failed the EAS, he/she may be deemed to have passed the EAS if he/she scored at or above the Safety Net passing score. Beginning in late June, candidates who previously failed the EAS, but scored at or above the Safety Net passing score, will be notified that they have now been deemed to have passed the assessment.

The Department is currently engaged in the process of establishing the Safety Net passing score, and it is anticipated that the Safety Net passing score will be announced in mid-June. Those currently taking the EAS through June 30, 2016 need not take any action; their submission will be evaluated under the Safety Net passing score automatically. After June 30, 2016, the original EAS passing score (non-Safety Net) will be used to determine if a candidate has passed the assessment.

Content Specialty Tests

For certain redeveloped CSTs, which first became operational in September 2014, the Board of Regents has created a safety net for certain redeveloped CSTs.

The following CSTs are covered by the Redeveloped CST Safety Net:

Agriculture	Library Media Specialist
Business and Marketing	Literacy
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Mathematics
Educational Technology Specialist	Multi-Subject: Teachers of Early Childhood (Birth – Grade 2)
English Language Arts	Multi-Subject: Teachers of Childhood (Grade 1 – Grade 6)

Family and Consumer Sciences	Multi-Subject: Teachers of Middle Childhood (Grade 5 – Grade 9)
Gifted Education	Physical Education
Health Education	Students with Disabilities

Candidates who take and fail one of the eligible redeveloped CSTs listed above will have the option of taking the corresponding predecessor CST (the Safety Net CST) in lieu of retaking the redeveloped CST. The redeveloped CST must be taken and failed first. Candidates who take a Safety Net CST without first taking the corresponding eligible redeveloped CST may not use that Safety Net CST for certification. In that instance, the candidate will have to retake the Safety Net CST after receiving a failing score on the redeveloped CST. Candidates taking a redeveloped CST with multiple parts must take and submit all parts of the redeveloped CST, but need only fail one part of the three part assessment to be eligible for the safety net.

Candidates who are applying for the Students with Disabilities - Grades 7-12 - Generalist certificate are required to take and pass the new Multi-Subject: Secondary Teachers (Grade 7–Grade 12) exam. There is no safety net for this CST because this is a new CST, and not a redeveloped test.

Consistent with the Redeveloped CSTs, the Safety Net CSTs will now be computer based. Pearson anticipates that it will be able to offer the Safety Net CSTs beginning in July and the Safety Net CSTs will continue to be offered through June 30, 2016. Candidates will be able to register and pay for the Safety Net CST through the NYSTCE website.