

To: Deans/Unit Leaders, Directors of Field & Clinical Experiences, Assessment Directors, and Certification Officers

Topic: Missouri Educator Profile (MEP) and Educator Performance Assessments including the Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment (MoPTA), Missouri School Counselor Performance Assessment (MoSCPA) and Missouri Librarian Performance Assessment (MoLPA)

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The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Office of Educator Quality (OEQ), Educator Preparation would like to make a formal announcement regarding the use of the Missouri Educator Profile (MEP) and the Educator Performance Assessments: Missouri Performance Teacher Assessment (MoPTA), Missouri School Counselors Performance Assessment (MoSCPA), and the Missouri Librarian Performance Assessment (MoLPA). The Department would like to thank our educator preparation program colleagues for providing valuable feedback which helped make these decisions.

The Missouri Educator Profile will no longer be required as of June 1, 2018. The Department highly recommends a disposition tool be in place in each Educator Preparation Program. Information regarding EPP created disposition tools will be available on the DESE Educator Preparation website. DESE is discontinuing the use of the MEP for the following reason:

1. The Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators (MoSPE), Standard 2.A. states, “Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) may establish their own valid and reliable assessment tools that provide additional measure(s) of the growth and development of their candidates.” This standard allows for other disposition assessments to be used by EPPs.

Passing scores on the following Missouri Performance Assessments will no longer be required for students seeking certification after September 1, 2018: MoPTA, MoSCPA, and MoLPA. These ETS scored assessments will be replaced with a MEES evaluation tool developed and implemented by Missouri educator preparation programs.

- Students completing their culminating experience prior to September 1, 2018 will be required to pass the performance assessment (MoPTA, MoSCPA MoLPA) in order to be recommended for certification prior to September 1, 2018.
- Students who failed the performance assessment (MoPTA, MoSCPA, MoLPA) may be recommended for certification by their EPP on or after September 1, 2018, with a minimum composite score on their summative evaluation in the Missouri Educator

Evaluation System. Discussions regarding what the minimum score on the MEES should be for certification eligibility are currently taking place with our educator preparation colleagues. A passing score on the Missouri Content Assessment and minimum GPA requirement are also still required for certification.

- The MoPTA, MoSCPA and MoLPA will no longer be the required performance assessment to recommend a student for certification on or after September 1, 2018. Students being recommended for certification beginning September 1, 2018 will be required to have a minimum composite score on their summative evaluation in the Missouri Educator Evaluation System (MEES).

DESE is discontinuing the use of these three Educator Performance Assessments for the following reasons:

1. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Educator Preparation office requested EPPs feedback regarding the effectiveness of the exit assessments during the Ed Prep Business meeting held on September 6, 2017. During this discussion EPPs revealed that these exit assessments do not effectively evaluate competencies, skills and abilities as clearly as defined through the active involvement during their student teaching and/or internship.
2. Validity and reliability questions on scoring.
3. Student teachers, school counselor candidates, and librarian candidates will have more immediate feedback based on their MEES score(s), which will provide performance data as the candidate progresses through the student teaching/internship experience.
4. The timeliness of the performance assessment results does not align with school district hiring practices.
5. Defined "tweaks" could not solve issues related to the assessments.
6. To eliminate the redundancy of having two performance assessments since the Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators, Standard 3. B. states, "Educator Preparation Programs shall use the Missouri Educator Evaluation System (MEES) to measure the effectiveness of their candidates." Students in professional education programs are immersed in the learning community and are provided opportunities to develop and demonstrate competence in the professional roles for which they are preparing, which is being assessed through the Missouri Educator Evaluation System (MEES) for teacher, school counselor, and librarian candidates. These experiences are a true demonstration of performance.

The benefits of eliminating the MoPTA, MoSCPA and MoLPA as required exit assessments for teacher, school counselor, and librarian candidates, respectively, are as follows:

1. Students will be able to solely focus on developing their skills, abilities, lesson planning, students, and additional classroom responsibilities in their student teaching and/or internship environment.
2. Students will receive more opportunities for feedback through student teaching and/or internship environment as opposed to a couple of paragraphs of feedback that is currently provided through the exit assessment. Timely feedback allows the student to implement any suggested changes to further their own professional development and growth.

A memo will be shared in the next few days addressing the transition to the MEES as the sole performance assessment.