



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
300 DON GASPAR  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501-2786  
Telephone (505) 827-5800  
[www.ped.state.nm.us](http://www.ped.state.nm.us)

RYAN STEWART, Ed.L.D.  
SECRETARY DESIGNATE OF EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Educator Preparation Program Leaders, Superintendents, and Charter Leaders

**FROM:** Seana C. Flanagan, Director, Educator Quality Division

**RE:** **Transition to Praxis for New Mexico Teacher Assessments**

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As the 2019 calendar year ends, the New Mexico Public Education Department is reaching out to inform you that, after input from stakeholders and careful review of teacher test options, New Mexico will be transitioning from the use of Pearson's NES tests to the use of ETS' Praxis tests.

A stakeholder group composed of education preparation leaders, superintendents, and district human resource leaders made this recommendation to the Department based on presentations by the testing companies. Following the presentations participants completed a rubric for each company and during a virtual meeting, stakeholders discussed the scoring of their rubrics and the recommendation was to transition to the Praxis tests.

Beginning January 1, 2020, New Mexico Public Education Department will allow students seeking teacher licensure to take either the NES Tests developed by Pearson or the Praxis tests developed by ETS through August 31, 2020. On September 1, 2020, the department will only offer Praxis tests for teacher licensure.

The *Praxis* Core Academic Skills for Educators (*Praxis* Core) will be an important component to New Mexico's licensure and certification process. These tests are comprehensive assessments that measure the skills and content knowledge of candidates entering teacher preparation programs. To support aspiring teachers, ETS has collaborated with Khan Academy® to offer Official *Praxis* Core Prep, a free online resource that focuses on building the reading, writing and mathematics skills needed to succeed on the *Praxis* Core and prepare for the classroom. To see how this resource works, visit [khanacademy.org/praxis-core](http://khanacademy.org/praxis-core).

All of the information on the current teacher assessments is available on [NMPED's website](#). This website will be updated to reflect the transition in test providers in December 2019.

The department is appreciative to the Pearson Company for their support to our educator preparation programs, students, and department.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Becky Kappus at [becky.kappus@state.nm.us](mailto:becky.kappus@state.nm.us)

GW/RR/SCF/bk

cc: Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary  
Rebecca Reyes, Director of Licensure  
Becky Kappus, PhD, Educator Preparation Program Manager