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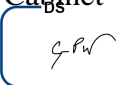
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOV

April 26, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Educator Preparation Programs, District Superintendents, and Charter Leaders

CC: Kurt Steinhaus Ed.D., Secretary and NMPED Cabinet

FROM: Gwen Warniment, Deputy Cabinet Secretary 

RE: Updated Requirements for Teacher Licensure

In 2005, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) created the Professional Practices and Standards Council (PPSC) to ensure high standards are maintained in the preparation and practice of professional educators and support providers licensed by PED. Per [6.2.8 of the New Mexico Administrative Code \(NMAC\)](#) the PPSC is required to advise the Secretary of Education and PED on matters related to the approval of educator preparatory programs, licensure, professional development, and ethics of licensed school personnel.

In January 2022, the NMPED convened a Licensure Subcommittee to better understand the challenges and barriers to becoming a licensed teacher in the State of New Mexico. The PPSC Licensure Subcommittee met between January 2022-April 2022 to discuss issues, review case studies of actual NM Educators, and make formal recommendations to the Secretary of Education. Below are the recommendations brought forth by the PPSC Licensure Subcommittee and approved by NMPED.

Beginning in July 2022 approved educator preparation programs in the State of New Mexico must adopt a standardized portfolio that will serve as a rigorous approval process to becoming a licensed educator in the State of New Mexico and Praxis examination pathways will be removed for educators that will graduate in the spring, 2024. All Elementary Educator seeking licensure must still complete Praxis: Teaching of Reading Elementary Examination per state statute 22-10A-1 NMSA 1978.

The approved educator preparation programs will ensure that there is a judicious method of selection processes, coaching, mentoring, and rigorous standard of completion of the portfolio for teaching candidates enrolled in their program of study. Once, a candidate completes their approved program of study and their standardized portfolio has been assessed and deemed passing, their names will be sent to the NMPED Licensure Bureau. For out of state candidates and unique circumstances, Praxis will continue to be a pathway for licensure.

As New Mexico continues to face a workforce crisis within education, it is important to require multifaceted, evidence-based strategies to address the range of obstacles to recruiting and retaining highly qualified educators. The court's decision in the Martinez/Yazzie consolidated lawsuit identified numerous ways in which the educator workforce could improve. NMPED is committed to meeting the needs of all students including those at our Higher Education Institutions, by adopting this portfolio process we are acknowledging past systemic failures to address the historic inequities within educational institutions. With these changes there will be rigorous standards put into place to ensure that programs are aligned with best practices to serve groups (low-income, Native American, English language learner (ELL), and students with disabilities) named by the court in Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico consolidated lawsuit.

For students currently enrolled in a traditional or alternative educator preparation program and graduating between May 2022-December 2023 all Praxis core examinations will be waived but all other examinations will need to be completed and passed.

Implementation Timeline for Teacher Licensure Changes: *All preparation programs will have portfolio in place for graduates of 2024 by July 1st, 2022. It is expected that incoming sophomores will begin their ongoing portfolio process during their junior year.*

Graduation/Completion Date	Portfolio <i>*That is required by PED, if your institution has a required portfolio, you must complete it.</i>	Standardized Examinations
Spring/Summer/Winter 2022	No	No Praxis Core but must take all other required exams
Spring/Summer/Winter 2023	No	No Praxis Core but must take all other required exams
Spring/Summer 2024 and ongoing	Yes	No Praxis Examination required except for out of state candidates or unique circumstances <i>* All Elementary Educator seeking licensure must still complete Praxis: Teaching of Reading Elementary Examination per state statute 22-10A-1 NMSA 1978.</i>

It is expected that District Leaders and HR Managers will continue to have a rigorous process to ensure that candidates being sponsored to file an extension request are in good standing and have the support and skills to create a safe, healthy, and engaging learning environment for all students.

Anyone currently on an extension waiver will have Praxis Core waived but must complete other required examinations by December 2022 and must have their dossier submitted by March 31, 2023

Special Thanks to the PPSC Licensure Subcommittee:

Debra Dirksen, Ph.D., PPSC Chair

Cecilia Hernandez, Ph.D., PPSC Licensure Subcommittee Chair

Jann Hunter, Ph.D., PPSC Licensure Subcommittee Member

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