

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

May 16, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Amanda DeBell, Deputy Cabinet Secretary Teaching, Learning, and Innovation

<sup>DS</sup>  


**RE:** Updated Requirements for Teacher Licensure- Portfolio in lieu of Praxis

---

In January 2022, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) convened a Licensure Subcommittee to better understand the challenges and barriers to becoming a licensed teacher in the State of New Mexico. The Professional Practices and Standards Committee (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.

The April 2022 Memo sent from the previous NMPED Deputy Secretary, Gwen Warniment stated that “Beginning in July 2022 approved educator preparation programs (EPPs) 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.”

Since the release of this memo, NMPED provided the following [EPP Portfolio Framework](#) aligned to the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Standards as beginning guidance and approved Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) have been developing a comprehensive portfolio process to evaluate candidates within their institution and to serve as the primary measure of a candidates competency for licensure.

Requirements for Teacher Licensure

May 16, 2024

Page 2 of 2

At this time, EPPs must align with the InTASC standards, but have the autonomy to incorporate these portfolio requirements with existing portfolio capstones and other culminating project program requirements. Each portfolio will be evaluated/scored by the program assigned supervisor. NMPED will also require a random sampling of student portfolios as part of the program review process. The department recognizes that more work is needed to ensure the adequacy of the portfolio as the primary competency measure. **In recognition of the ongoing evolution of New Mexico's Comprehensive Portfolio as the primary measure of a candidate's competency for licensure, graduates will have the option to complete [the previously required praxis examination pathways](#) in lieu of the comprehensive portfolio through January 2026. This will be at the discretion of the EPP. Institutions will be required to submit a letter to the NMPED Professional Licensure Bureau for all program completers stating which pathway the candidate successfully completed.**

New Mexico continues to face an educational workforce crisis and the New Mexico Public Education Department remains committed to ensuring highly qualified, well-prepared teachers that represent the diversity of the communities they serve. NMPED is committed to maintaining high-standards and providing quality preparation for all educators entering the profession. The Praxis examination offers a limited measure of a candidate's ability, primarily measuring content knowledge and written communication skills. The comprehensive portfolio includes rigorous standards that provide a holistic view of a candidate's competency and ability within the classroom. Educators will not only have to demonstrate their content knowledge and communication abilities as measured through exams, but they will also have to demonstrate pedagogical prowess through competency aligned goals and artifacts. The comprehensive portfolio assessment raises the standards of high-quality preparation and provides a far greater measure of a candidate's "day-one readiness" than a standardized test. Working in partnership with state institutions of higher education as well as other important stakeholders, the department continues to work towards a rigorous, standardized portfolio process aligned with the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) standards that help ensure our educator preparation programs are aligned with best practices to serve groups (low-income, Native American, ELL and students with disabilities) named by the court in Yazzie and Martinez v. State of New Mexico consolidated lawsuit.

cc: Arsenio Romero, Ph.D., Secretary of Public Education Department  
Candice Flint, Ph.D., Division Director of Educator Quality  
Phoebe Walendziak, Assistant Director of Educator Quality.