Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations (MTLE) Overview

August 1, 2013

Statutory Requirements

<u>History</u>

- 1985 Legislation: Basic Skills examinations in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics
- 1998 Legislation: Content Knowledge
- 1998 Legislation: General Pedagogical Knowledge

<u>References</u>

- Testing requirements
 - Minn. Statute §122A.09, Subdivision 4
 - Minn. Statute §122A.18, Subdivision 2
- Applicants trained in other states
 - Minn. Statute §122A.23, Subdivision 2

Basic Skills Testing prior to September 2010

Praxis Series (through ETS)

- Praxis I/Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST): Basic Skills
- Praxis II: Content
- Praxis II: Pedagogy

Praxis Pass Rates

- Basic Skills Mathematics: 92% average pass rate
 - National cut score range: 169-178; MN cut score: 171
- Basic Skills Reading: 88% average pass rate
 - National cut score range: 170-178; MN cut score: 173
- Basic Skills Writing: 88% average pass rate
 - National cut score range: 171-176; MN cut score: 172

Praxis Equivalence

Joint report published by the NEA and ETS (2011): "Toward Increasing Teacher Diversity: Targeting Support and Intervention for Teacher Licensure Candidates"

Our analysis first addressed the Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST®) in Mathematics, Reading and Writing. Many colleges and universities use these tests to evaluate individuals for entry into teacher education programs, and in some states, the tests are required for licensure. The Writing test contains a 30-minute essay; all other questions on the test are multiple-choice. The Mathematics test focuses on the key concepts of Mathematics and on the ability to solve problems in a quantitative context; the level is equivalent to that of the first two years of high school Mathematics. The Reading test features Reading passages of a variety of lengths and on a variety of subjects, accompanied by questions that address literal, critical and inferential comprehension. All of the content and skills in the three Praxis I tests are expected to have been mastered in P-12 education, are covered in all states' P-12 standards and in the Common Core Standards and, therefore, cover skills that do not exceed a high school level.

(page 7, emphasis added)

MTLE Development

Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations: MTLE

- May 2009: Development work began after public bidding process
- August 2009: Board of Teaching direction to develop MTLE Basic Skills at a "college-experienced" level
 - Candidates are able to demonstrate skills and knowledge that parallel their ability to read college-level textbooks, write in a manner consistent with basic college expectations (e.g.: grammar, syntax, structure, spelling), and perform general math skills expected of a college student engaged in a liberal arts education.
- Bias Review Committee of Minnesota educators established
- Content Advisory Committees of Minnesota educators established

MTLE Development

- October 2009: Preliminary review of all test frameworks by members of each Content Advisory Committee
- November 2009: Bias Review Committee initial review of all draft test frameworks
- February 2010: Bias Review Committee review of all revised test frameworks and all draft test items
- February 2010: Content Advisory Committees review of all test frameworks and item by item analysis of all draft test items.
 - Guiding question: "Does the test framework / does the item reflect the knowledge and skills that are required by the state, as defined by the licensure standards, to perform the job of an entrylevel educator in Minnesota schools?"

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MTLE Development

- March 2010: Content Validation surveys completed to rate the importance of test objectives in the revised draft frameworks
- April 2010: Field testing
- June 2010: Standard-setting review panels of Minnesota educators convened
- September 2010: MTLE launched
- October 2010: Board of Teaching adopted passing scores

MTLE Basic Skills Content

Basic Skills Mathematics

- Formulas and Constants page
- <u>Test objectives</u>
 - Understand numbers and the number system.
 - Apply principles of algebra to expressions and equations.
 - Apply principles of algebra to linear and nonlinear functions.
 - Understand measurement concepts.
 - Understand the principles of geometry.
 - Demonstrate knowledge of data, statistics, probability, and discrete mathematics.
 - Understand mathematical processes and perspectives.

MTLE Basic Skills Content

Basic Skills Reading

- Test objectives
 - Understand the meaning of words and phrases.
 - Understand the main idea and supporting details in a written passage.
 - Understand a writer's purpose, point of view, and intended meaning.
 - Analyze the relationships between ideas in written material.
 - Use critical reasoning skills to evaluate written material.
 - Apply skills for outlining and summarizing information in written materials and interpreting information presented in graphic forms.

MTLE Basic Skills Content

- Basic Skills Writing
 - Performance Characteristics and Scoring Scale
 - Directions for Constructed Response portion
 - Descriptive and Analytic
 - <u>Test objectives</u>
 - Understand methods for developing an organized, effective, and coherent expression of ideas.
 - Understand and address errors in sentence formation, grammar, and usage.
 - Understand and address errors in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
 - Demonstrate the ability to prepare a well-organized and focused piece of writing for a given purpose and audience, using standard English conventions.

MTLE Basic Skills Data

Subtest/Ethnicity Summary - Best Attempt								
Subtest	# Takers	# Pass	# Not Pass	% Pass	% Not Pass	Mean Total Scaled Score		
Basic Skills Mathematics (08/10- Present)	12,424	9,699	2,725	78%	22%	254.0		
Basic Skills Reading (08/10-Present)	12,725	9,994	2,731	79%	21%	252.1		
Basic Skills Writing (08/10-Present)	12,651	9,935	2,716	79%	21%	250.1		

Note: Passing score for all MTLE subtests is 240.

2012 Legislation

- February 2012
 - Basic Skills tests must be passed prior to issuing a license.
- May 2012
 - Additional year provided (through the end of the 2012-2013 school year) for a person who has:
 - (1) obtained a one-year license to teach; and
 - (2) taught during the 2011-2012 school year;

2012-2013 BOT Work

BOT action taken

- Additional time:
 - Physics, Middle Level Mathematics, Basic Skills Writing
- Standard-setting in February
 - Physics, Middle Level Mathematics, Earth & Space Science, World Languages: French, German, Spanish
- Preliminary passing status provided
- Shortened retake windows
- Increased testing opportunities (rolling registration) and test locations

Proposed legislation

- Non-native English speakers
- Licensed teachers coming to MN from other states
- Alternative or appeal process
- Comprehensive review of all testing/assessment requirements for teacher licensure in MN

2013 Legislation

1. Eligibility for additional licenses

- Teachers who have already been issued a one-year license in Minnesota
- Teachers applying for a first license in Minnesota who have completed a Minnesota licensure program
- Teachers applying for a first license in Minnesota who completed an out-of-state licensure program

2. Teacher Licensure Advisory Task Force

BOT Work in Progress

- Detailed performance analysis for candidates
- Enhanced online practice test by adding correct response rationales and sample constructed-response evaluations
- Expanded documentation options for Alternative Testing Arrangements