



## MINNESOTA BOARD OF TEACHING

# Teacher Testing Requirements FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On September 1, 2010, the Minnesota Board of Teaching will launch a new generation of licensure tests. The new testing program is named the

## *MINNESOTA TEACHER LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS (MTLE)*

The Board of Teaching developed this set of questions and answers to help teacher candidates prepare for the change to the MTLE from the Praxis tests. Additional questions can be directed to the Board of Teaching. See contact information on page 5.

### **What tests are required to get a Minnesota license?**

*Beginning in September 2010, the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations (MTLE) will be the statewide uniform means of assessing the basic skills, pedagogical, and subject-area knowledge of Minnesota K-12 teacher candidates. All candidates for an initial license are required to pass the basic skills tests (reading, writing, mathematics), as well as pedagogy and content knowledge tests.*

### **When can I register to take the MTLE?**

[Registration begins July 19, 2010, on the MTLE Website](http://www.mtle.nesinc.com) ([www.mtle.nesinc.com](http://www.mtle.nesinc.com)).

### **Where can I take the MTLE?**

*MTLE, except for World Language tests, are computer-based tests (CBTs) and are administered at Pearson Professional Centers (PPCs) and Pearson-authorized CBT sites in Minnesota. All CBT test centers are conveniently located near educator preparation institutions. World Language tests are paper based and will be administered in facilities located near language preparation institutions.*

## **What are the test administration dates?**

*The CBT examinations will be available six days each month. You may schedule an appointment at the testing center of your choice. World Language tests will be offered up to six times per testing year. Test date and site information is provided on the MTLE Website.*

## **What if I took a Praxis test and passed? Will I have to take this new test?**

*Note: This applies only to candidates who complete an approved program in Minnesota. See below for questions relating to out-of-state applicants.*

*Once the MTLE tests are launched on September 1, 2010, candidates **cannot take** the Praxis for Minnesota licensure. However, if you have a passing score from a **test taken prior to September 1, 2010**, the BOT will accept the scores for the time periods listed below:*

*If you **completed a Minnesota licensure program and took the test before September 1, 2010**, the Board of Teaching will accept passing scores on the following tests:*

- *Praxis basic skills tests (reading, writing, mathematics) until December 31, 2015. Beginning January 1, 2016, only MTLE basic skills passing scores will be accepted.*
- *Praxis pedagogy and content knowledge tests will be accepted until August 31, 2012. Beginning September 1, 2012, only MTLE pedagogy and content knowledge passing scores will be accepted.*

*If you **complete a Minnesota licensure program between September 1, 2010, and August 31, 2012, AND took the test prior to September 1, 2010**, the Board of Teaching will accept passing scores on the following tests:*

- *Praxis basic skills tests (reading, writing, mathematics) until December 31, 2015. Beginning January 1, 2016, only MTLE basic skills passing scores will be accepted.*
- *Praxis pedagogy and content knowledge tests will be accepted until December 31, 2015. Beginning January 1, 2016, only MTLE pedagogy and content knowledge passing scores will be accepted.*

## **What if I have passing scores from both Praxis tests and MTLE tests?**

*Candidates may use a combination of Praxis and MTLE scores as long as the Praxis scores fall within the timelines defined above.*

## **How do I prepare for the MTLE?**

*A series of free study guides will be available through the MTLE Website when registration opens on July 19, 2010. These study guides include details about test content and format, as well as sample test questions. You can view these guides online or download them as PDFs for later review or printing.*

**What is the required passing score for each test?**

*Passing scores for each licensure test will not be set until October, 2010. Candidates who take a test in September, 2010, will be held to the scores set by the BOT retroactively.*

**When do I get my test scores?**

*Scores will be reported 21 days after the close of the computer-based testing window or 21 days from the test administration date for paper-based World Language tests.*

**Is there any limit to the number of times I can take a test?**

*No. You may take a test or subtest as many times as needed.*

**What if I passed one subtest but not another within a test? Do I have to take both subtests?**

*No. You may register for and take only the subtest that you did not pass. However, you must wait at least 90 days before retaking the same subtest.*

**What if I have tested several times and cannot pass? Is there some other way that I can get my license?**

*No. Testing requirements are set forth in Minnesota law and cannot be waived by the BOT.*

*A limited license may be issued upon the request of a Minnesota school district or charter school which allows a candidate one year to teach while attempting to pass the required tests. For more information regarding limited licenses, contact the Educator Licensing division at the Minnesota Department of Education at [mde.educator-licensing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.educator-licensing@state.mn.us) or call 651-582-8691.*

**What test do I take if I am seeking a World Language license?**

*Currently, only French, German, and Spanish World Languages have content knowledge tests. A content knowledge test for the Chinese (Mandarin) language will be required beginning September 1, 2010. [View a list of all licensure areas and required tests.](#)*

*Candidates seeking a license in another World Language are not required to pass a content knowledge test. However, all World Language licensure candidates must pass the basics skills and pedagogy tests.*

**How do I take an MTLE test if I don't live in Minnesota?**

*The MTLE will be available at more than 200 Pearson Professional Centers in the United States, including Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Canada.*

**Will a similar test taken in another state qualify me for Minnesota licensure?**

*No. Only tests approved by the BOT for use in Minnesota may be used to qualify for a teaching license.*

**What if I already have a license from another state? Do I have to take the MTLE?**

*Yes. All teachers must pass the MTLE tests. This includes the Basic Skills tests in reading, writing, and mathematics, a pedagogy test, and the content knowledge test(s) specific to the licensure field.*

*However, a teacher with a license from another state can apply for a one-year license which allows a teacher one year to teach while attempting to pass the MTLE tests. This license can be renewed twice during a period of three years before the teacher must have met all of the Minnesota testing requirements. For more information regarding a one-year license, contact the Educator Licensing division at the Minnesota Department of Education at [mde.educator-licensing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.educator-licensing@state.mn.us) or 651-582-8691.*

**How do I request testing accommodations?**

*Information about requesting alternative testing arrangements will be provided to you during the registration process. The MTLE Website has detailed information about procedures and requirements for requesting alternative testing arrangements.*

**How much do the MTLE tests cost?**

*[This information is available on the MTLE website. \(www.mtle.nesinc.com\)](http://www.mtle.nesinc.com)*

**How do I pay for the test if I have limited financial resources?**

*Evaluation Systems and the BOT will develop a system for providing test-fee vouchers. These vouchers will be distributed to qualifying candidates by Minnesota educator preparation programs.*

**What if I already have a Minnesota license—do I have to take these tests?**

*These tests are required for new licenses only. If you are new to the profession or new to Minnesota, you must pass the basic skills tests, a pedagogy test that aligns with the scope (grade level) of your licensure field, and a content-specific test in your licensure field. If you are already licensed and are adding another license, you only have to take the content knowledge test in the new licensure field.*

**What if I am currently teaching on a license that has a specific renewal condition that says I have to take an ETS / Praxis test?**

*The Board of Teaching will honor a passing score from either an ETS (Praxis) or an MTLE test in these situations.*

**Can I choose if I want to take a test by computer or with paper and pencil?**

*MTLE, except for World Language tests, are computer-based tests (CBTs) and are administered at Pearson Professional Centers (PPCs) and Pearson-authorized CBT sites in Minnesota. All CBT test centers are conveniently located near educator preparation institutions. World Language tests are paper based and will be administered in facilities located near language preparation institutions.*

If you still have questions, please contact the Board of Teaching at:  
[board.teaching@state.mn.us](mailto:board.teaching@state.mn.us).