

Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education
Office of the Dean
4044 Lech Walesa Hall
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 North St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625
Phone: (773) 442-5500
Fax: (773) 442-5510

Date: August 13, 2019

From: Sandra Beyda-Lorie, Dean
Alberto Lopez, Associate Dean and Licensure Officer

To: Candidates in Licensure Programs

Subject: Elimination of test of basic skills for Licensure in Illinois

Cc: Goodwin College of Education Licensure Preparation Program Advisors

In this memorandum is shared important information for candidates enrolled in any teacher preparation, school leadership or school counselor education program. Legislation addressing Illinois' basic skills requirement for teacher licensure was passed during the recent legislative session. **Public Act 101-0220 eliminates the basic skills test requirement completely.** This bill was signed into law by Governor JB Pritzker and takes effect immediately.

Here is what you need to know about how this change impacts all candidates currently completing licensure programs:

- For individuals currently enrolled in an Illinois educator preparation program, a test of basic skills is no longer required prior to student teaching or for licensure.
- For individuals who are completing a school support internship/program, including a principal preparation or school counselor program, a test of basic skills is no longer required prior to internship.
- Teacher preparation program candidates are no longer required to have any scores for tests of basic skills, including the ACT, SAT, and TAP, sent to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).
- This change in legislation will impact the degree exit requirements for many of our licensure programs. We are working with the University Registrar at Northeastern Illinois University to eliminate this requirement effective immediately. This means that candidates will not need to pass a test of basic skills to graduate (i.e. ACT, TAP, SAT).
- We will include information about this change on the Goodwin College of Education website under the section called "[Teacher Licensure: policies, information and entitlements/endorsements.](#)"

If you were enrolled in a licensure program but were not able to complete the program because you did not pass the Test of Basic Skills, please contact your program advisor to discuss how you can complete your program.

For additional information, please contact your program advisors or send an email to gcoe@neiu.edu.