Ed Prep Spotlight: Updating the SMK

With the adoption of new Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in 2011 incorporating the Common Core State Standards, instruction in English language arts and mathematics must evolve in order to ensure that the Commonwealth’s students have the opportunity to master new, more rigorous expectations. An essential step in this instructional shift is alignment of training in educator preparation programs to ensure that incoming educators are prepared in the right content for which they will be responsible as teachers. To guide educator preparation programs in this alignment work, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will be revising the Subject Matter Knowledge (SMK) standards for the below-listed licenses. These regulatory revisions will be brought to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for a period of public comment and then ultimately, for adoption. In addition to changes to preparation programs, these changes will ultimately lead to revisions of associated MTEL examinations.

- Early Childhood
- Mathematics, all levels
- Elementary
- General Science
- English, all levels
- Moderate & Severe Disabilities
- Reading Specialist

ESE plans to convene three working groups July in support of this work. If you are interested in participating in one of the working groups, please submit an application including the following by May 23rd to SMKRevisions@doe.mass.edu:

- Resume (please limit to 2-pages including relevant experience, education, publications, etc.)
- 1-page statement of interest, including a summary of knowledge and relevant experience, including the specific working group you are applying to participate in
- Commitment to participate in the meetings in central Massachusetts on July 9 and 10, including availability for preparation work in advance of these meetings and feedback on documents afterwards. Also, commitment to potentially attend one or more additional meetings later in the summer/early fall.

NTEP Spotlight

Teacher Performance Task Force
The Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force held its last meeting at the end of April. Recommendations and considerations have been presented to the Commissioner. Decisions have not yet been reached but will be forthcoming in the early summer months.

New PSTs Working Group
A working group has begun developing indicators for new Professional Standards for Teachers (PSTs). Currently between our 2nd and 3rd meeting, the working group is focused on prioritizing and differentiating indicators. Draft indicators will be out for feedback this summer. Final Guidelines, which will include implementation timelines, will be released in October.

Edwin Analytics Launch
In an effort to support continuous improvement efforts and effective use of data, ESE launched Edwin Analytics pre-service reports to all SOs. To learn more about Edwin Analytics and how it supports Sponsoring Organizations, please click here. ESE recently hosted two webinars to guide SOs in the use of Edwin and the reports available. The webinar will be posted on our website in the coming weeks. If you are interested in accessing the reports, contact edprep@doe.mass.edu.
Ed Prep Project Updates

Program Review Process

Last Chance to Apply to be an Ed Prep Reviewer for 2014-15

The application deadline for Ed Prep Reviewers has been extended to Friday, May 23rd! Don’t miss out on this important opportunity to serve as an expert in the evaluation of educator preparation programs in Massachusetts. We encourage all interested educators to apply. Application materials and further information are available here.

Teacher Preparation Program Completer Survey

Based on the June 2012 Program Approval regulations, ESE is charged with administering and reporting on annual surveys of preparation program candidates and school district personnel. In 2013, the Ed Prep team piloted the first of these surveys: teacher preparation program completers. Data from this pilot survey will be shared with each individual SO in the coming weeks. Based on feedback from organizations and completers themselves, we have revised the survey. This summer, the new program completer survey will be sent to all candidates who completed an initial teacher license program after August 31, 2013. Results for each program with at least six survey responses will be shared publicly on each program’s profile on ESE’s website.

Field Feedback Survey

In support of our own continuous improvement effort, the Ed Prep team is asking for your feedback via this short survey. Data from this survey will help the Ed Prep team:

1. Assess our engagement and interactions with the field
2. Improve the quality of our interactions with the field
3. Inform effective planning for future Ed Prep work
4. Gauge the depth of impact for key ESE initiatives

The Ed Prep team will release the results of this survey to all Sponsoring Organizations and will post the data on our website. The survey results will also be shared with Commissioner Chester, Deputy Commissioner Alan Ingram and Heather Peske, Associate Commissioner for Educator Quality.

Anyone who has engaged with the Ed Prep team in the last year is encouraged to provide feedback.

CAEP/MA Partnership Agreement

The consolidation of the two national accrediting agencies (NCATE & TEAC) into the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) comes at a time when ESE is also investing in the strength of our review system. In support of a new partnership agreement between ESE and CAEP, we have conducted two field engagement sessions. During the most recent meeting, representatives from the field weighed in on potential proposals. ESE continues to engage with the 13 Sponsoring Organizations who currently seek national accreditation as well as leadership at CAEP. A new partnership agreement will be in place by fall.

ED PREP CALENDAR

**MAY 2014**

May 22nd MA-Performance Assessment for Leaders Webinar – Please contact: abattle@bankstreet.edu for registration information.

May 23rd Deadline for applying for SMK revision working groups.

May 28th Advancing Educator Preparation in Massachusetts: Unpacking the New Curriculum Standards (Summit II). Team registration required. Contact Sue Lane at slane@bhe.mass.edu with questions.

May 28th Field Feedback Survey due.

May 31st The Informal Review window closes. See the Guidelines for Program Approval (pg. 15). Resources available at: doe.mass.edu/edprep/toolkit

**JUNE 2014**

June 9th SEI MTEL Available

**JULY 2014**

July 1st All program completers must earn SEI Endorsement for licensure

**AUGUST 2014**

August 4-9th Ed Prep Reviewer Training

August 11-15th Ed Prep Reviewer Training
Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Update

SEI Endorsement Requirement beginning July 1, 2014
As a reminder, beginning on July 1, 2014 core academic teachers will be required to qualify for the SEI Endorsement in order to be eligible to obtain an initial license. Candidates for licensure will need to have **applied and satisfied all requirements in effect before July 1, 2014** in order to qualify for licensure without the SEI Endorsement.

This means that candidates who apply prior to July 1, 2014, but do not meet the licensure requirements until on or after this date will need to qualify for the SEI Endorsement. Likewise, a candidate who satisfies the licensure requirements in effect before July 1, 2014, but files the application on or after July 1, 2014, will need to qualify for the SEI Endorsement to be eligible to obtain the initial license.

Please advise your candidates about this requirement and important deadline.

New SEI MTEL Test Offered
The newly developed SEI MTEL test, as an option to gain SEI Endorsement, will be implemented as a computer-based test beginning June 9, 2014. [Registration](#) for the SEI test is currently available. Scores are tentatively scheduled to become available beginning in early September. Preparation materials can be found [here](#). Additional preparation materials will be available on 5/23 [here](#), under “Preparation Information.”

Please note that SEI coursework is a part of the approved program of study and it is the expectation that all candidates should earn their SEI Endorsement through their programs as part of their initial licensure program. If a candidate in a preparation program has successfully earned the SEI Endorsement by passing the SEI MTEL, SOs may waive the SEI course requirement.

As a reminder the SEI MTEL is one option for earning the SEI Endorsement, but is not required, and should only be taken by individuals that have received training in sheltered English immersion.

An updated SEI FAQ (last FAQ sent in October 2013) will be forthcoming.

SEI Review Status and Release of Official Letters
All SEI syllabi submitted by Sponsoring Organizations as required have undergone review. To date, approximately 75% of courses have been reviewed and deemed to have met standards. The remaining syllabi required re-submission and are currently undergoing a second or third review. The Ed Prep team will continue to communicate with organizations about the status of their review. SOs will receive an official letter designating the coursework that met standards once all syllabi have been successfully reviewed.

Contact the Ed Prep Team
Email edprep@doe.mass.edu with inquiries and questions related to Educator Preparation in Massachusetts.

Meagan Comb, Educator Preparation Manager, mcomb@doe.mass.edu

Elizabeth Losee, Assistant Director for Educator Policy, Preparation and Leadership, elosee@doe.mass.edu

Ed Prep Website
[http://www.doe.mass.edu/EdPrep/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/EdPrep/)

Newsletter Feedback
In order to provide you with the most useful information, please complete our two-minute survey on our newsletter.

Administrative Leadership Spotlight
Performance Assessment for Leaders: MA-PAL – Field Trial Update
ESE has begun preparations for a September **2014 field trial** of the Massachusetts Performance Assessment for Leaders (MA-PAL) with the
goal of having a high-quality leadership performance assessment system online and operational by Fall 2015.

Participation in the pilot and field trial provides programs and individual candidates with an exciting opportunity to learn and improve the system prior to full implementation. PAL fully supports and is aligned with SOs recent efforts to redesign leadership preparation. We hope and expect all programs to make the most of these pilot and field trial experiences.

On May 22nd Bank Street College of Education and ESE will host a webinar following the spring pilot, share preliminary analyses of the fall pilot study results and discuss next steps.

**Principal Preparation Expansion Opportunity:**

One of ESE’s goals in the RTTT application was to expand the supply of effective educators. One effort to achieve this goal was to support the development of improved models of recruitment, preparation, and induction through expansion opportunities. Through these opportunities, ESE hopes to increase the number and diversity of academically talented candidates entering the field of education.

Following the posting of these opportunities, ESE has awarded funds to support the expansion of effective principal preparation programs to the following organizations: Curry College, Teachers21, and UMass-Lowell. Congratulations to these organizations, we look forward to the impact that these programs and new principals will have on improving the effectiveness of our educators in the Commonwealth.

**ESE-at Large Initiatives**

**Exciting Opportunities at ESE Turnaround Schools**

Several turnaround schools in the Commonwealth are hiring and are hoping to solicit your support in recruiting and placing educators who are looking to make an impact where it’s most needed – at four schools across the state designated as “chronically underperforming” who are now in state receivership. For further information, please contact Liza Veto at L veto@doe.mass.edu.

**Diversity Initiative**

ESE committed to focusing on the recruitment and retention of a diverse and culturally proficient educator workforce as one of the projects in the Race to the Top grant. From June 2013-January 2014, ESE convened a group of experts, known as the Massachusetts Advocates for Diversity in Education Task Force (Diversity Task Force), to advise ESE on how to achieve this goal. At April’s Board meeting, the Task Force submitted its report, containing ten recommendations. In response, ESE has devised an action plan. Both documents, as well as additional background on the Task Force, can be found in the Board’s meeting archive.

**National Ed Prep Related News**

**Reauthorization of HEA and Dr. Peske’s testimony**

Dr. Heather Peske, Associate Commission for Educator Quality, recently testified in front of a House Committee hearing regarding the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). You can watch an archived webcast of the hearing or read the written testimony.

---

Other ways to stay connected:

**Subscribe to Commissioner Weekly Update**

If you wish to subscribe to weekly updates from Commissioner Chester, please send an email to imailsrv@list1.doe.mass.edu with the following information in the body of the email: subscribe ESEUpdate Your Name. (Example: subscribe ESEUpdate John Smith)

**Subscribe to the Educator Evaluation Newsletter**

Technical Assistance FAQs

ESE is committed to providing timely feedback and technical assistance to Sponsoring Organizations. Towards this goal, the Ed Prep team has developed a system to organize and track questions and concerns regarding program approval and program regulations including licensure. We include the most common FAQs in each edition of our quarterly newsletter.

It’s endorsement season! As Sponsoring Organization’s prepare to process thousands of program completers in next few weeks, here are a few tips and reminders to help you get through this busy time smoothly.

**What is the licensure batch process?**

Batching is a way for Sponsoring Organizations to expedite the licensure process for their program completers. SOs are not required to batch, it is simply an available option. In order to submit a batch to our licensure office, please review this updated advisory: [Licensure Batch Process Advisory](#).

**I’ve run into a glitch in the Early ID system, can you help?**

Absolutely. As a first resource, there are detailed technical assistance guides at [www.doe.mass.edu/edprep/earlyID](http://www.doe.mass.edu/edprep/earlyID), including useful YouTube videos that walk you through step by step! Still stuck? Send a short description and screen shots of the error you are experiencing to edprep@doe.mass.edu. We will help you navigate the difficulty and involve our technology department as needed.

**Once candidates have satisfactorily met SEI and all other licensure program requirements, how do they receive their SEI Endorsement?**

In order to receive any licensure or endorsement from ESE program completers must apply for the SEI Endorsement through ELAR although no fee is assessed. Once logged into ELAR, completers can “apply for a new license” and then select and add the appropriate “SEI Endorsement” (teacher or administrator). If additional assistance is required, the candidate should contact the Licensure Call Center (Monday-Friday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.) at (781) 338-6600.

**What are some ways to help an individual candidate navigate the licensure process?**

There are a number resources at your disposal that allow you, as desired, to support individual candidates. The first is your ability to check a candidate’s licensure status in ELAR via the Security Portal through an Administrative Inquiry. Additionally, you can connect them with the licensure support resources available here, including an [interactive FAQ](#), and advise them to contact licensure directly at (781) 338-6600 M-F from 2-5 p.m.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is committed to preparing all students for success in the world that awaits them after high school. Whether you are a student, parent, educator, community leader, taxpayer, or other stakeholder interested in education, we invite you to join us in this endeavor.

We are guided by this mission...

"To strengthen the Commonwealth’s public education system so that every student is prepared to succeed in postsecondary education, compete in the global economy, and understand the rights and responsibilities of American citizens, and in so doing, to close all proficiency gaps."

And by these goals...

- **Strengthen curriculum, instruction, and assessment**
- **Improve educator effectiveness**
- **Turn around the lowest performing districts and schools**
- **Use data and technology to support student performance**

To receive the quarterly Educator Preparation Newsletter in your inbox, please send an email with your name, title, organization and email address to: EdPrep@doe.mass.edu