



Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure® (MTEL®)

2008–2010 TEST DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY



Background Information

The Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 requires educator licensure candidates to pass a test of communication and literacy skills and a test of subject matter knowledge for each license sought. Between spring 2008 and winter 2010, 15 tests and 17 practice tests in the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure® (MTEL®) program are being updated or newly developed. Test development will occur in two groups, with the first group to be administered for the first time in fall 2009. The first group of test fields already under development includes the following: Communication and Literacy Skills, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Physics, Technology/Engineering, Spanish, and French. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) has contracted with the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson to assist in the development and administration of the MTEL.

The following fields will be updated for implementation in winter 2010:

- Business
- English as a Second Language
- Health/Family and Consumer Sciences
- Latin and Classical Humanities
- Physical Education
- Visual Art

Practice tests for History, English, and General Science fields will also be developed.



Test Development Activities for Fields to Be Implemented in Winter 2010

Test development activities associated with the MTEL tests are accomplished with the participation of Massachusetts public school educators, educator preparation faculty, college faculty involved in other academic departments, and educator licensure candidates. Educators have opportunities to serve on review committees, respond to surveys, and provide pilot-testing support. Educator licensure candidates will be asked to participate in pilot testing. The following is a brief explanation of the test development process.

Test Objectives Development (fall 2008)

The test objectives, which are broad, meaningful statements of subject matter knowledge and skills that are important for entry-level teaching in Massachusetts public schools, define each test. The test objectives have been prepared based on several sources, including the state educator licensing regulations and student learning standards, with input from and review by Massachusetts educators.

Content Validation Survey (winter 2009)

A Content Validation Survey will be conducted to provide empirical and confirmatory evidence in support of the validity of the test objectives for each of the new tests. The Content Validation Survey, which is sometimes referred to as a *job analysis survey*, validates the test objectives that will form the basis of test content by ascertaining that job incumbents and educator experts (i.e., Massachusetts public school educators, arts and sciences/fine arts faculty, and educator preparation faculty) consider the content of each test objective important for entry-level teaching. The MTEL Content Validation Survey is an important component of the validity evidence in support of the content. The purpose of the survey is to obtain judgments from Massachusetts educators about:

- the importance of each objective for entry-level teaching in Massachusetts public schools;
- how well the set of descriptive statements represents important aspects of each objective; and
- how well the set of objectives, as a whole, represents the subject matter knowledge required for entry-level teaching in Massachusetts public schools.

Item Development and Review (spring 2009)

Following the Content Validation Survey, test items (i.e., test questions) will be developed based on the validated test objectives and other relevant materials from the advisory committees of Massachusetts public school educators and higher education faculty. Draft test items will be reviewed and approved by the committees.

Pilot Testing (summer/fall 2009)

Items for the new tests will be pilot tested to gather information about their quality and technical characteristics. The pilot test will provide educator candidates and other individuals at Massachusetts institutions the opportunity to respond to test items that may be included on future test forms.

Test Administration (winter 2010)

The new tests will be first administered in the winter of 2010.

Establishment of Passing Scores (spring 2010)

Following the first administration of the new tests, a panel of Massachusetts educators will participate in standard-setting activities in which they review results of the test administration and provide the Department with input for setting the passing standards for the tests.

National Evaluation Systems is now the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson.

Copyright © 2008 Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s). All rights reserved.
Evaluation Systems, Pearson, P.O. Box 226, Amherst, MA 01004

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure and MTEL are trademarks, in the U.S. and/or other countries, of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s).

Pearson and its logo are trademarks in the U.S. and/or other countries of Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s).