



Get the Facts

Important Certification Changes (Nov 2011—part 2)

Important TEST Changes!

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recently announced a significant change to the Basic Skills certification test.

This announcement comes on the heels of another recent announcement of fee increases (effective Jan 2012) and endorsement and minimum grade changes (effective February 2012).*

The Basic Skills test will undergo a change with regard to expanding the number of questions in the reading, grammar, and math sections. These additional questions will form a new test (called the “expanded basic skills”) and will also reconfigure the passing scores needed (yet to be announced).

Given that the expanded test is a new assessment, **individuals will be allowed 5 attempts to pass, regardless of how many attempts he or she may have previously attempted for the basic skills test.** Be sure to take the new computer based test if you want to restart the number of attempts.

Individuals that have passed a portion of the test already will be allowed to “bank” those scores and complete the remaining portions through the expanded test. Individuals will not need to retest in areas they have passed and “banked”. Taking all or a part of the test will count as one of the 5 attempts, just as it has in the past.

Important things to note:

- The expanded test will **ONLY** be available through computer based testing at Pearson Vue Centers **beginning in February 2012.**
- The expanded test will cost \$170 for the full test and \$79 for one portion of the test.
- The first time the expanded test is offered (February 2012), it may take several months to receive official scores.
- The current paper and pencil tests (without the additional questions) will be available through April 2012, after which **ONLY** the expanded, computer based test will be available.
- No changes have been announced for any other certification tests at this time.

Please understand that DePaul and the College of Education has no control over policy and regulations set by the Illinois State Board of Education. When changes do occur, however, we try to keep you as informed as possible with timely information.

* For additional information on the fee increases, endorsement changes, and minimum grade changes, please see the Get The Facts document at <http://education.depaul.edu/CurrentStudents/GetTheFacts/index.asp>

