Applicable Test Scores

Effective September 1, 2003 passing scores are established for ten Praxis content area tests, including middle level tests in Mathematics, General Science, English and Social Studies. One test, for the new Social Science certificate, remains in its “No Qualifying Score” status.

For all test scores being announced in this memo, including the four middle level tests, the effective date is September 1, 2003. Applications received on or after that date must meet the qualifying score.

Middle Level Test Cutoff Scores

The effective date for the middle level tests is September 1, as noted above, and will be required of all middle level certificate applicants including those who also served as part of the initial group that began testing on March 8, 2003. Any teacher receiving a passing score on one or more of the four middle level tests should submit an application any time after September 1, 2003 to receive the appropriate middle level certificate. Applications received before that date cannot be processed. Applicants whose test scores fall below the qualifying score cannot be approved.

While we expect that the vast majority of the elementary teachers who took the middle level tests will meet the qualifying score, there will be instances where a teacher may be well qualified in most, but not all, of the testing component areas. We encourage the school districts and the teachers to use the results of the tests as a professional development tool.

Elementary teachers in grades 7 and 8 may remain in those positions without the middle level certificate until the end of school year 2005-2006. In order to meet the state goals under the No Child Left Behind Act, it is our hope that all become middle level certified as soon as possible. All teachers must meet the federal definition of “highly qualified” (in the content area they teach) by the end of the school year 2005-06. In the interim, Pennsylvania school entities must show annual progress towards that goal.
Test Results

The scores listed below were set following the standard validation process. Test items/tests were evaluated by Pennsylvania teachers and scores recommended on their evaluation of what a teacher in that area would be expected to know.

**Cutoff scores established effective September 1, 2003 are:**

Middle School English/Language Arts 163
Middle School Mathematics 151
Middle School Social Studies (Citizenship Education) 152
Middle School Science 144
Citizenship Education 7-12 148
Social Sciences 7-12 NQS
Environmental Education 7-12 600
Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge 150
Teaching Speech to Students with Language Impairments 590
Safety and Driver Education 520
School Guidance and Counseling 590

Any question on this memo should be referred to the Division of Teacher Education, 717-787-3470.