

Date: September 10, 2007

To: District Superintendents, Please distribute this letter to your building Principals
District Human Resource Personnel
Dean, UW College of Education
Vice President of Academic Affairs, Wyoming Community Colleges

From: Dr. Connie J. Pollard

Re: ETS (PRAXIS) Standard Study Setting Panels

The Professional Teaching Standards Board, together with dozens of practicing Wyoming teachers, participated in and recommended eight PRAXIS exams that were adopted April 2006. This year we will be adopting an additional 16 PRAXIS exams to assist teachers in adding endorsements, obtaining HQ status and, in some cases, standard certification. Our first step is to assemble panels of teachers from across the state to participate in the standards setting study panels. The purpose of standards setting study panels is to review test questions and, ultimately, recommend a passing score for the PRAXIS exams.

We would like to involve teachers from your district and faculty from institutions of higher education in the standards setting study panels. Thus, we are asking that you consider nominating up to three teachers for each test being reviewed. Since we are trying to get a cross-section of district types, as well as a diverse group of teachers, not all teachers you nominate may be selected to participate. The following is a list the tests that will be reviewed Fall 2007:

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

0041: English Language, Literature & Composition: Content Knowledge
0061: Mathematics: Content Knowledge
0245: Chemistry: Content Knowledge

Thursday, December 13, 2007

0235: Biology: Content Knowledge
0360: English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
0481: Physical Science: Content Knowledge

Friday, December 14, 2007

0265: Physics: Content Knowledge
0571: Earth and Space Sciences: Content Knowledge

To serve on a standard study panel we need nominations of teachers who have content expertise in the areas of the PRAXIS exams which are scheduled to be reviewed. Nominees need to meet the following criteria:

1. Teachers who are fully certified in the content area(s) being reviewed, and who are currently teaching those content area(s)

2. Teachers with between 3 and 10 years of experience; but more experienced teachers are welcome, if they are actively involved in mentoring or supervising a beginning teacher in the content area(s)
3. Teachers who represent the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the students they teach
4. College faculty who prepare teachers in any of the content areas of the tests listed are also welcome to be a part of the standards setting study panels.

The standards setting studies will take place on December 12-14, 2007 in Casper. Each panel will meet for only one of the three days scheduled. The goal is to assemble a panel of between 12 and 15 educators. IMPORTANT: A teacher who is endorsed in more than one area of science and is teaching in multiple areas of science may be a panel member on more than one of the science panels.

Please consider nominating teachers who meet the above criteria. This is very important to Wyoming schools in light of NCLB mandates and is a good opportunity to involve your district in the certification process.

Educational Testing Service (ETS) will be facilitating the study on PTSB's behalf. ETS will reimburse panelists for travel and pay for lodging for one night for each panel you are a member of, breakfast and lunch will be provided. WDE has agreed to reimburse districts for the cost of substitutes for each teacher who is selected to participate in these study panels. PTSB will offer Professional Staff Development renewal credits to participants.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pam at 307-777-6261. Pam will maintain a list of all those who volunteer to be on a standards study setting panel. You may send a fax, 307-777-8718, call, or mail Pam at PTSBTEMP@state.wy.us the name(s) of those who wish to participate.

We need your **nominations no later than September 27, 2007**. Please provide Pam with:

1. the nominee's name(s),
2. mailing address,
3. teaching assignment,
4. school district or college/university,
5. and a phone number where they can be reached.

Teachers, who are selected to participate on a panel, will need to register online. PTSB will provide each participant with the necessary information regarding registering after they are assigned to a panel.

cc: Carol Illian, Title II Program Manager, WDE