



Evaluation Systems

Innovations and Solutions
in Response to the National Teacher Shortage

As we travel across the country in support of state agencies responsible for certifying our nation's teachers, we continue to witness the extraordinary challenges posed by the ongoing teacher shortage. This shortage significantly impacts the ability to fill our nation's classrooms while maintaining the standards and rigor necessary to ensure a high-quality teacher workforce.

This challenge not only affects our state agencies but also compels us all to explore creative solutions for certifying classroom teachers. At Evaluation Systems of Pearson, Dr. Wyatt Gordon – Head of Evaluation Systems – has devoted considerable thought to how we can contribute to the solution. Moreover, he has challenged our staff to be equally vigilant in exploring creative and innovative approaches to teacher licensure and certification testing, specifically aimed at addressing the teacher shortage while maintaining quality in our workforce.

Evaluation Systems is actively embracing these challenges by working to transform the face of teacher licensure and the assessments required for prospective teachers. With this goal in mind, we would like to share some of the progress we've made to date.

Designed to empower educator candidates nationwide by providing greater flexibility and support on their certification journey, we have enhanced our National Evaluation Series assessments with several innovations. These improvements aim to streamline the certification process

What's New with the Enhanced National Evaluation Series?

Testlets (Modular Testing)

Evaluation Systems is offering a new approach to licensure exams. Testlets allow candidates the flexibility to tailor their exam experience in a way that best suits their needs. Candidates can take the assessment in one sitting or complete smaller individual domains closer to the time they receive instruction on each specific domain. Research shows that testing closer to the time of instruction enhances the opportunity for success. Additionally, candidates can bank their score on each domain until they have completed all of the required domains on the test. If unsuccessful on their initial attempt, candidates only need to retake the specific domain(s) they choose, saving both time and money.

FLEX Approach

Our innovative FLEX (Flexible Evaluation for Excellence) approach allows teacher candidates to showcase their competency through multiple measures. FLEX ensures a comprehensive evaluation of candidate skills and knowledge, providing a more dynamic and holistic certification process. Tailored to meet each candidate's unique needs, FLEX fosters a personalized pathway to success that can be individualized for each candidate. Early analysis of data for this approach indicates FLEX is especially beneficial for candidates of color.

Right Start Content Preparation Courses

We know that preparation is key to success. Our Right Start interactive content preparation courses align with each assessment, offering targeted, comprehensive support through self-paced learning modules, instructional resources, and practice assessments. Candidates can assess their readiness, track progress, and identify areas for improvement, ensuring confidence on test day.

Free Retakes for Struggling Test Takers

Evaluation Systems understands that certification exams can be challenging. That is why we now offer free retakes to any candidate after three test attempts. This provides candidates with peace of mind to demonstrate their competency without the burden of added financial stress.

Free Interactive Practice Tests

Every assessment registration includes complimentary access to a free Interactive Practice Test. This resource allows candidates to become familiar with the exam format to approach the challenges of test day with confidence.

Paraprofessional Assessments

As the teacher shortage continues to grip the nation, Evaluation Systems has recognized the critical role of Paraprofessionals. We now offer two focused Paraprofessional Assessments that provide a clear pathway to certification, setting Paraprofessionals up for success in their educational careers. Through these enhancements we offer proactive approaches and tools to support teacher candidates, educator preparation programs, and state education agencies to excel in licensure assessment preparation. As we advance in licensure testing, it is crucial to recognize that many of these improvements have been driven by the feedback of caring and committed educators who envision a future with a highly qualified workforce. As we continue to travel the country, we look forward to ongoing discussions on how, together, we can contribute to making this vision a reality.

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