DATE: August 3, 2012

TO: Education Stakeholders

FROM: Jason E. Glass, Director – Iowa Department of Education

SUBJECT: Further Guidance - Praxis Testing Requirements

As you know, the Iowa legislature enacted a provision which requires students in practitioner preparation programs to score above the 25th percentile nationally on assessments of pedagogy and content knowledge in at least one subject area as a condition of completing the preparation program. On July 16 the Department of Education offered initial guidance (available here on our website) on the implementation of this new requirement. We are now pleased to provide additional guidance in this memo.

Qualifying Assessments
The Department of Education has selected the Praxis II exams as the qualifying pedagogy and content knowledge assessments. The Department is now in the process of engaging with ETS, the company which produces the exams, as well as with the Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE) to determine which specific Praxis II exams are appropriate for each grade level and content area. We anticipate that the complete list of exams, and the corresponding required passing score, will be available in early September 2012.

Implementation Timeline
The initial guidance from the Department of Education stated that enforcement of this provision will begin on November 1, 2012. Upon further engagement with ETS and local stakeholders, the Department has discovered several implementation issues with a November 1 enactment date. Therefore, all teacher candidates who graduate after January 1, 2013 will be subject to these testing requirements.

We appreciate both your input and patience as we work to effectively implement this important piece of legislation.