



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

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Dear Montana School Administrator:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the federal highly qualified teacher (HQT) requirements for new-to-the-profession and experienced elementary and secondary teachers teaching core academic subject classes, and what these requirements mean to you.

To meet the federal HQT requirements, every teacher must have demonstrated content knowledge prior to teaching core academic subject classes. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) 2001 core academic subjects include: English, reading, mathematics, science (biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, and physical science), civics and government, economics, history, geography, world languages, visual arts, and elementary curriculum. Teachers with endorsements in other subject areas (e.g., music, library media, health enhancement, technology education, family and consumer sciences) are not required to pass a subject area test to teach non-core academic subject classes.

The ESEA HQT requirements apply to all teachers assigned to teach core academic subject classes.

- K-8 Elementary teachers new-to-the profession must pass the Praxis II (0014) Elementary Content Knowledge Test prior to being assigned to teach the elementary curriculum.
- K-8 Elementary teachers who hold a Class 5 Alternative License must pass the Praxis II (0014) Elementary Content Knowledge test prior to teaching the elementary curriculum.
- Elementary and secondary teachers with a minor in a core academic subject must pass the applicable Praxis II subject knowledge test prior to teaching a core academic subject class.
- Experienced K-8 Elementary and secondary teachers, K-12 special education teachers, and Title I teachers teaching core academic subject classes must meet HOUSSE requirements or pass the appropriate Praxis II subject area test prior to teaching a core academic subject class.
- Teachers with a secondary major, course work equivalent to a major, or an advanced degree in a core academic subject meet the federal requirements and are not required, for HQT purposes, to pass a subject area test.
- Testing Sessions for the applicable 2010 Praxis II tests are: January 9; March 13; April 24; June 12; & July 24.
- For registration information refer to the Praxis Series Bulletin. The link to the Praxis Series is located on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Web site at www.ets.org/praxis. Once at the Praxis Series home page, follow these steps: 1) Go to the heading, "For Test Takers" click "About the Test"; 2) Click Praxis II: Subject Tests; and 3) Click the tab labeled "Get Bulletin."

Attached are the Montana passing scores used only for HQT purposes. For more information refer to the Highly Qualified Teacher link on the Office of Public Instruction Web site: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Accred/HQT.html>. For comments or questions, contact me by telephone, (406) 444-5726 or by e-mail, lypeterson@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Linda Vrooman Peterson, Administrator

Attachment

The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.