

Memorandum

To: Framework for Teaching Proficiency System Customers
From: CEC
Date: August 17, 2012
Re: Reduction in the Module 2 mandatory wait period before retesting

The policy for Module 2 retesting in Illinois has been that evaluators who fail a test round at either stage 1 or stage 2 must wait 14 days before retesting. This is to ensure that testers invest adequate time to review the training materials, to schedule face-to-face remediation if necessary, and to reduce the “memory effect” of prior test attempts. However, as of today’s date, the application of that 14 day wait period will prevent any evaluator who fails Module 2 from being able to retest before September 1.

While more than 4300 evaluators have successfully completed the Proficiency test, there are still more than 5,000 evaluators who must complete Module 2 before the September 1 deadline. About 10% of these evaluators are in progress and have completed at least one stage of the test. But there are more than 4,500 evaluators who have not yet begun testing, or have failed one testing round and must therefore retest.

Given the sizeable numbers of evaluators who are still in process on Module 2, ISBE has requested that Teachscape and ETS reduce the wait period before retesting is allowed, to provide the opportunity for all evaluators to remain in compliance and demonstrate proficiency before September 1. Teachscape and ETS have agreed that, given these extraordinary circumstances, the wait period may be reduced to 3 days (72 hours) for the period from tomorrow until September 1. **72 hours between testing rounds is the absolute minimum amount of wait time that the test designers are willing to consider.** **After September 1, the wait period between testing rounds will be reset to 14 days.**

NEW TEMPORARY 3-DAY WAIT PERIOD

Starting tomorrow, August 18, and until September 1, any evaluator who has failed the first round of Module 2 testing will be given access to a retest 72 hours after the end of the last failed test attempt. There is no requirement that an evaluator take the retest as soon as it becomes accessible; in fact, we recommend that you wait until you feel confident that you have mastered the material before attempting the retest. Evaluators who fail the second round of testing will not be allowed to retest until after December 1.

In preparation for the retest, testers are advised to review the training materials; review the subskill report that you receive via email from CEC; and to practice the scoring videos included in Module 2.¹

¹ Data indicates that most testers who fail either stage 1 or stage 2 struggle with demonstrating proficiency at correctly assigning evidence to the appropriate component of the Framework, so Teachscape and ETS recommend that all testers review the following parts of Module 2 online training: Component modules (2a-3d); and the “Applying the Framework for Teaching Module”, Pages 2,4,6 and Page 10, Part B.

As noted in a communication sent yesterday, any tester who fails one round of testing will receive a subskills report from CEC showing your areas of strength and weakness on each of the subskills tested in the assessment. This report has already been sent to all testers who failed either stage 1 or stage 2 of the test on or prior to August . Additionally, new reports will be sent out from CEC to testers who fail all available attempts on either stage 1 or stage 2 going forward. We expect that those reports will be distributed by email within 2 calendar days of the time that an evaluator fails the last of the available attempts in a testing round.

POLICIES REGARDING RETEST

By reducing the period of time between testing rounds, the test designers have cautioned that the comparability of test scores for different groups of testers may be impacted. It is possible that evaluators who retest after a shorter wait period could be either advantaged, or disadvantaged, as compared to testers who wait the recommended time between testing rounds. Until the test scores are examined for these potential differences, the effect of the reduced wait period cannot be predicted. However, ETS and Teachscape will conduct an analysis of scores on the group of evaluators who retest under this reduced wait period, and will report any anomalies in the resultant scores to ISBE. Anomalous scores may be invalidated, resulting in the tester being asked to retest again at a future date.

It is very important, therefore, that all testing protocols continue to be observed:

Testers should invest adequate time to train using the online training materials, the feedback reports, and the remediation support offered by Growth through Learning

Testers should not consult with one another on the content of the test

All tests should be completed individually. Testers should not attempt to complete the test as a group exercise.

Growth Through Learning is committed to providing a fair, valid, and high quality assessment to all FfT Proficiency test-takers. We trust that the protocols and adjustments outlined in this message will contribute to the achievement of that objective.

² By way of example, an evaluator who fails either stage 1 or stage 2 of the test on August 20 will receive a subskill report via email on or before 11:59PM on August 22.