



United University Professions



Building a Teacher Education Action Plan for 2015-2016

There are significant problems with the State Education Department's teacher certification process and exams. A statewide coalition of teacher educators from public and private institutions, working with students and parents, can be effective in challenging new SED teacher certification requirements and pressing Regents and legislators to insist that the process is educationally sound and implemented fairly.

WE NEED YOUR HELP AND PARTICIPATION!

Here's how you can get involved:

- Letter writing to legislators and Regents
- Meeting with legislators and Regents in home districts and/or in Albany
- Assisting with development of fact sheets, white papers, and other advocacy materials
- Organizing/attending campus and community meetings
- Working with student, parent, and community groups
- Networking with colleagues across campuses and in professional associations

Here's why your help is needed:

Initial teaching certification requirements in New York were changed quickly and without adequate input from education professionals.

General problems include validity/reliability problems; unresolved problems with Common Core content; inadequate student prep materials; computer format and test administration glitches; and inequity in resources to prepare programs and students for new requirements.

There are four new high-stakes teacher certification requirements. Three took effect in May 2014.

The fourth, Content Specialty Tests (CSTs), began to be changed during the 2014-15 academic year.

EAS – Educating All Students: Tied to Common Core

ALST – Academic Literacy Skills Test: Tied to Common Core

edTPA – educative Teacher Performance Assessment

CSTs – Content Specialty Tests: Tied to Common Core

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Problems with the exams must be addressed before the student safety nets expire in June 2016.

The Board of Regents took emergency action in May 2015 to adopt safety nets for the EAS, ALST, edTPA, and certain redeveloped CSTs. These safety nets provide students who fail one or more of the exams alternatives for completing each certification requirement. Many qualified and committed future teachers will be denied certification in New York state once the safety nets expire if the exam problems that necessitated the safety nets aren't addressed.

Student costs for exams and other requirements have risen substantially—to an average of \$1,000 for initial certification, not counting the cost of retakes.

All four exams are administered by Pearson Inc. This private corporation continues to profit from its poorly designed exams.

The overall assault on teachers and college-based teacher preparation is leading to dramatic declines in enrollment.

Federal Title II data reveal declining enrollments across New York state college/university teacher preparation programs. In 2009-10, 79,225 students were enrolled. In 2012-13, the last year of posted data, that number dropped to 47,872. Enrollments in many teacher preparation programs continue to decline.

State officials have asserted that there are too many teacher preparation programs and too many students graduating with teacher preparation degrees.

Their assumptions are flawed, and make us question if their agenda is to reduce teacher prep programs. SED's job placement data focus only on teaching jobs students get in New York; it does not consider out-of-state teaching placements, jobs in teaching-related fields, or job-market variations across fields and elementary/secondary levels. A more accurate and comprehensive, long-term analysis is needed before policy decisions are made based on SED's incomplete and questionable analysis of the situation.



For more information or guidance, contact Jamie Dangler, UUP's statewide vice president for academics and Teacher Education Task Force chair, at 1-800-342-4206 or via email at jdangler@uupmail.org

To **TAKE ACTION**, visit the **UUP Teacher Education Task Force** web page at <http://uupinfo.org/committees/teached/taskforce.php>