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GUAM COMMISSION FOR EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION
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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

GCEC NO.: SOP-2023-01

SUBJECT: ALTERNATE OPTIONS IN LIEU OF A PRAXIS SCORE
BELOW THE PASSING STANDARD

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/16/23

I. REFERENCES: PL 29-73, PL 31-50 & PL 32-220; Educator Certification

II. APPLICABILITY: This document applies to all educator certification candidates who have PRAXIS scores below the identified target (PRAXIS CORE Academic Skills for Educators, PRAXIS Subject Assessment).

III. PURPOSE:

*While all educators are **encouraged** to prepare for the PRAXIS tests through studying, online practice tests, study groups, retaking of the tests, and courses, the Guam Commission for Educator Certification has been researching alternatives over the last few years to assist the educators in their path to achieve certification when the PRAXIS test standard scores are beyond their reach. The PRAXIS tests ensure quality educators are in the classrooms; however, test anxiety, lack of preparation, and additional costs have stopped some teachers from achieving their educator certificate. This Standard Operating Procedure is designed to assist those educators to achieve certification without removing the PRAXIS requirement identified in the law.*

To address the need for an increased number of qualified teachers for the education of the children of Guam. To ensure the teachers are able to demonstrate proficiency in the basic skills of reading, writing, and mathematics as tested in the PRAXIS CORE: Academic Skills for Educators. To address issues such as test anxiety and background knowledge which may impact the candidates ability to receive a passing score on PRAXIS CORE: Academic Skills for Educators. *To substitute a lower score in reading, writing, or mathematics, GCEC will accept a passing score of B or better received in an approved course, or series of courses, in reading, writing, or mathematics (depending on the PRAXIS need) from an accredited institution of higher learning (see PL 31-50).*

To address the need for an increased number of qualified teachers for the education of the children of Guam, and to ensure proficiency, specifically in the content areas tested in PRAXIS Subject Assessment. *To provide the option of (a) accepting a passing score of B or better received in an approved course, or series of courses, in the specific content area from an accredited institution of higher learning (see PL 31-50), or (b) exemplary quarterly observations for two years from the school administrator, or qualified designee, certified in the content to be observed, to substitute for the required passing score.*

IV. **SCOPE:** District-wide for applicants for Guam Educator Certification who do not meet the scoring standards on one of the sections of PRAXIS CORE: Academic Skills for Educators, namely in reading, writing, or mathematics, or who do not meet the scoring standards for the content area PRAXIS Subject Assessment.

V. **POLICIES:** It is the policy of the GCEC that all official documents pertaining to the certification process be handled in a professional manner with attention to security.

VI. **REQUIREMENTS / PROCEDURES:**

1. Candidates must take the PRAXIS CORE: Academic Skills for Educators or PRAXIS Subject Assessment tests and have the results sent to GCEC.
2. Candidates' PRAXIS CORE: Academic Skills for Educators or PRAXIS Subject Assessment test score results must be within **5 Points** of the passing standard.
3. Candidates who do not meet the PRAXIS CORE: Academic Skills for Educators or PRAXIS Subject Assessment standard have the option to SUBSTITUTE a section (reading, writing, mathematics, or content area) with an approved course (or series of courses), if the candidate receives a B or better in the course. The course completion is not retroactive but must be completed after the PRAXIS score is received and confirmed by GCEC, and the course/courses identified by the candidate and approved by GCEC.
4. In order to apply for the exemption of the PRAXIS CORE: Academic Skills for Educators or PRAXIS Subject Assessment section and utilize a course grade in lieu of the test, the applicant must identify an approved course, or series of courses to meet the content, from an accredited institution of higher learning (online or in person course both accepted) and have the course approved by the GCEC office prior to enrolling in the course (see PL 31-50).
5. The candidates must provide an official transcript on the course/courses (reading, writing, mathematics, or content area) to the GCEC office, along with a copy of the PRAXIS CORE: Academic Skills for Educators or PRAXIS Subject Assessment score to be exempted.
6. GCEC reserves the right to approve the credited course/courses in reading, writing, mathematics or content area, which will be utilized by the candidate as a supplemental source demonstrating proficiency.
7. Only in the case of a below standard score in **PRAXIS Subject Assessment** in lieu of a course completion, GCEC will accept *exemplary* quarterly observations for two consecutive years from the school administrator, or *qualified* designee, certified in the content to be observed, to substitute for the required passing score.

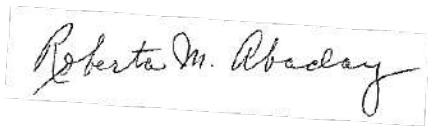
8. As with the PRAXIS test, the applicant is responsible for the cost of the PRAXIS tests and for the substitute course.

VII. **PENALTY:** GCEC Personnel in intentional violation of the procedures established in this SOP may be disciplined pursuant to the DOA Personnel Rules and Regulations.

VIII. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Upon date and signature of GCEC Chairperson.

IX. **CHANGE(S).** Suggestions for changes to this SOP should be submitted in writing to the GCEC Chairperson for consideration of the Commission.

X. **REVIEW.** Triennial review of this procedure will be conducted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roberta M. Abaday", is enclosed in a rectangular box. The signature is written in a cursive style.

ROBERTA M. ABADAY
GCEC Chairperson

Date 10/16/2023

Revised 2/26/2024