

## The New NYSED Teacher Certification Exam Safety Nets

In late May 2015, the Board of Regents extended the edTPA Safety Net and created Safety Nets for the Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST), the Educating All Students exam (EAS), and certain redeveloped Content Specialty Tests (CSTs).

**The NYSED OTI safety nets have been extended to June 30, 2017:**

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsafetynets.html>

**Any exam satisfied by a Safety Net must be passed on or before June 30, 2017.** However, candidates will have until June 30, 2018, one year later, to meet all other certification requirements, such as coursework and the Dignity for All Students Act workshop known as DASA.

**\*Please read how to request to have your Safety Net** applied to your certificate application at the bottom of this document: it does not happen automatically and often requires your follow-up.

### The edTPA

The existing edTPA Safety Net is extended by one year. Candidates who take and fail to receive a passing score on the edTPA may take and pass the ATS-W on or before June 30, 2017 instead of retaking and passing the edTPA, or they may use prior ATS-W results if the ATS-W was passed prior to May 1, 2014. Check this link for more information:

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsedtpa.html>

### The Academic Literacy Skills Test

The ALST Safety Net allows candidates who take and fail the ALST to submit an attestation which attests that the candidate has demonstrated comparable literacy skills consistent with the ALST in courses completed. This Safety Net will be implemented retroactively and will apply to anyone who has failed the ALST. The attestation form is available on the Office of Teaching Initiatives website at:

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsafetynetsalst.html>

Click on [Attestation for a Candidate to Use the Academic Literacy Skills Test Safety Net Form](#) to download a copy of the new ALST Safety Net form. As you will read, students now self-attest and mail the form to NYSED OTI themselves. There are clear directions on the form.

Here is some advice in choosing appropriate courses from your transcript(s): 1.) identify "writing intensive" courses, English courses, history courses, and education courses that stress literacy instruction, critical thinking, and text analysis; 2.) identify 300-level courses or higher; 3.) identify at least 2-3 courses; and 4.) only choose courses in which you have earned a grade of "B" or better in.

- After the ALST attestation is submitted to the OTI and reviewed, and if approved, the document will be logged into the candidate's TEACH account as a document received in the "Documents you sent to OTI/BOCES" table in TEACH. The document type is "ALST Safety Net Attestation". The candidate's ALST test score will not change. (Directions: Log onto TEACH; Choose "Account Information"; Click on "Correspondence"; Go to "Documents You Sent to OT/BOCES.")

- The exam requirement will not show as met until the safety net(s) are applied as the last requirement for certification (including self-reporting your education in the Self-Reported Education tab of your Teach Account Account Information). If a candidate has met all requirements for certification the use of one or more of the safety nets and the certificate has not issued, please email [examsafetynet@nysed.gov](mailto:examsafetynet@nysed.gov) to request the safety net(s) be applied. NYSED will then review the candidate's application.

### **The Educating All Students Exam**

The passing score for the EAS has been amended to a temporary "Safety Net passing score" which has been applied retroactively to every candidate who has taken the EAS. Those taking the EAS through June 30, 2017 need not take any action, as their submissions will be evaluated automatically under the Safety Net passing score. After June 30, 2017, the original EAS passing score prior to the Safety Net will be used to determine test results. Here's a link to more information on this Safety Net:

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsafetynetseas.html>

### **The Content Specialty Tests**

Candidates who fail one of the eligible redeveloped CSTs may take the corresponding predecessor CST (the Safety Net CST) instead of retaking the redeveloped CST. The redeveloped CST must be taken and failed first. Redeveloped CSTs with multiple parts must be taken in their entirety, but a single failed part of the assessment allows candidates to be eligible for the Safety Net.

The following CSTs are covered by the Redeveloped CST Safety Net:

Agriculture, Business and Marketing, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Educational Technology, English Language Arts, Family & Consumer Sciences, Gifted Education, Health Education, Library Media, Literacy, Mathematics, Multi-Subjects: Birth – Grade 2 / Grade 1 – 6 / Grade 5 – 9, Physical Education, and Students with Disabilities.

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsafetynetscst.html>

Here's a link to all of the Safety Net CSTs along with links to preparation materials:

[http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/NY17\\_testselection\\_safetynet.asp](http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/NY17_testselection_safetynet.asp)

Consistent with the Redeveloped CSTs, the Safety Net CSTs will now be computer-based beginning in July 2015, and the Safety Net CSTs will continue to be offered through June 30, 2017. Candidates will be able to register and pay for the Safety Net CST through the NYSTCE website.

The new **CST Multi-Subject (Grade 7–Grade 12)** exam has a new Safety Net for candidates who take and fail Part Two (Mathematics) of the test. In order to be eligible for the safety net, however, a candidate must pass Part One (Literacy and English Language Arts) and Part Three (Arts and Sciences) of the test, and then complete a mathematics tutorial that will be provided. The tutorial is intended to review mathematics lessons comparable to the content on the test. Upon completing the tutorial, candidates will receive an attestation form to attest that they have completed at least one college mathematics course (3 semester hours), in which they demonstrated comparable skills to what is required by this test and received a grade of 3.0 or higher or the substantial equivalent in that course. <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsafetynetmst.html>

For more information:

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/multi-subsecteachgrade7-12safetynet.html>

### **The Safety Net for the School Building Leader exam has expired.**

#### **Refunds**

Pearson will process appropriate registration refunds and other changes for candidates who are eligible for a Safety Net option. Candidates seeking refunds and other changes rather than retaking the test should contact NYSTCE Customer Service for details (1-800-309-5225). However, neither Pearson nor NYSED can issue a refund for a test that a candidate has already taken.

A candidate who has registered to retake one of the Safety Net eligible tests, but who has not actually retaken the examination, may be eligible to receive a refund of the registration fee (for the ALST and EAS), or, in the case of a CST covered by the Safety Net, apply the amount paid toward the registration cost of the Safety Net CST. The procedure for setting up a refund is detailed at [www.highered.nysed.gov/memos/memo06122015.html](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/memos/memo06122015.html)

#### **Processing of all safety nets:**

**\*Lastly, here's how to request to have your Safety Net** applied to your certificate application. This does not happen automatically and often requires your follow-up.

- The exam requirement will not show as met until the safety net(s) are applied as the last requirement for certification (including self-reporting your education in the Self-Reported Education tab of your Teach Account, Account Information). If a candidate has met all requirements for certification except the use of one or more of the safety nets and the certificate has not issued, please email [examsafetynet@nysed.gov](mailto:examsafetynet@nysed.gov) to request the safety net(s) be applied. NYSED will then review the candidate's application.