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).

These Safety Nets will be effective through June 30, 2016, and candidates may take advantage of multiple Safety Nets in order to meet the requirements for certification. Any exam satisfied by a Safety Net must be passed on or before June 30, 2016. However, candidates will have until June 30, 2017, one year later, to meet all other certification requirements, such as coursework and the Dignity for All Students Act workshop known as DASA.

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, 2016 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.

The Academic Literacy Skills Test
The ALST Safety Net allows candidates who take and fail the ALST to submit an attestation signed by the chief academic officer of their school of education, 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. Here’s the procedure at SUNY New Paltz:

The attestation form is available on the Office of Teaching Initiatives website at: http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsafetynetsalst.html

Please complete the top portion of the form and send it along with the evidence of failing the ALST (the test score report or the results from your Teach Account) and also your complete transcript to Associate Dean Aaron Isabelle at: aarondisabelle@gmail.com

Your transcript will be evaluated to find at least four (4) courses that are reading/writing focused with a grade of "B" or better. These will be recorded in section II of the attestation form prior to being submitted to NYSED for approval.

Submission of the ALST Safety Net Attestation

- The ALST attestation must be submitted directly by the college/university where the candidate completed the coursework, to the Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI). Candidate submitted forms will not be reviewed.
- 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 OT/BOCES” table in TEACH. The document type is “ALST Safety Net Attestation”. The candidate’s ALST test score will not change.
• If the ALST attestation was submitted by the college/university and is not logged into the candidates TEACH account, and the attestation was received directly from the college/university, it may still be under review. If there are any questions or issues regarding the attestation, OTI will work with the college/university or write to the candidate.

• The exam requirement will not show as met until the safety net(s) are the last requirement for certification. If a candidate has met all requirements for certification by June 30, 2017 except the use of one or more of the safety nets and the certificate has not issued, email examsafetynet@nysed.gov to request the safety net(s) be applied. NYSED will then review the candidate's application.

• To be eligible for the ALST Safety Net, the ALST Safety Net attestation must be submitted by the College/Institution to the Office of Teaching Initiatives by June 30, 2016.

• Any exam requirement to be satisfied by one of the safety nets must be satisfied on or before June 30, 2016. For example, a candidate who has failed both the edTPA and the ALST may use both applicable safety nets. However, all the requirements for the edTPA Safety Net and the ALST Safety Net must be met on or before June 30, 2016; the candidate will then have one additional year, until June 30, 2017, to complete all other requirements (example: coursework; DASA training).

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. Beginning in late June, candidates who previously failed the EAS, but scored at or above the Safety Net passing score, will be notified that they have now passed the assessment.

Those currently taking the EAS through June 30, 2016 need not take any action, as their submissions will be evaluated automatically under the Safety Net passing score. After June 30, 2016, the original EAS passing score prior to the Safety Net will be used to determine test results.

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:
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

The new Multi-Subject: (Grade 7–Grade 12) exam has no Safety Net, because this is a new CST, and not a redeveloped test. The Safety Net for the School Building Leader exam has expired.
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, 2016. Candidates will be able to register and pay for the Safety Net CST through the NYSTCE website.

**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

**More Information**
For more information on each of the NYSCTE Safety Net options and refunds described here, please read the corresponding memos on the NYSED website at:
www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsafetynets.html

More information on the edTPA Safety Net is available on a separate webpage at:
www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsedtpa.html