

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

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As leaders in teacher education, MACTE serves all learners in an ever-changing society through its commitment to high and consistent standards for every teacher.

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To: Karen Balmer, Executive Director, Minnesota Board of Teaching

RE: Minnesota Proposed Rule 8710.4770
Adding a science license by test

C. Members of the Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

The MACTE Executive Committee represents the Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE). Having heard consensus from our membership, we would like the Minnesota Board of Teaching to know:

MACTE opposes substituting a Praxis II science test for coursework and supervised field experience.

- ETS (Educational Testing Service) does not recommend using Praxis II for the purpose of comprehensive assessment leading to licensure.
- Science laboratory safety and field experience techniques are unique to each of the science disciplines. Teachers need documented instruction and experience in a discipline to be safe and effective in the laboratory and in the field.
- The US Department of Education has concluded that high school math courses and “*at least three years of laboratory science*” was the most important pre-collegiate determinant of whether students graduated from college (*Ed Week*, 2/22/06, p. 20). Demonstrated ability to effectively teach laboratory-based science is essential for Minnesota science teachers. A paper and pencil Praxis test does not provide evidence of that ability.
- The Minnesota Board of Teaching has strong standards for the preparation of science teachers. Minnesota institutions of higher education have initiated summer, evening, and workshop programs that will allow science teachers to add a license without compromising the state’s high standards for teachers. We will continue to expand these opportunities to meet the needs.

Minnesota needs to maintain its national leadership in standards-based teacher preparation in order to serve learners.

For the MACTE Executive Committee

Mary Bents, President