

PECT Information

Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests (PECT) PreK-4, SPED PreK-8, SPED 7-12 PDE Testing Requirements* *(*Must have successfully completed PAPA tests.)*

The Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests (PECT) were developed in alignment with Pennsylvania regulations and standards, including the Pennsylvania Program Framework Guidelines and relevant Pennsylvania Academic Standards. They are used for candidates seeking certification in Early Childhood (PreK-4), Special Education PreK-8, and Special Education 7-12.

The tests in the PECT program are criterion-referenced and objective-based. Criterion-referenced tests are designed to measure a candidate's knowledge and skills in relation to an established standard of performance (a criterion) rather than in relation to the performance of other candidates. The tests are designed to help identify those candidates who have the level of the required knowledge and expertise to teach in the grade band(s) for which they are seeking Pennsylvania educator certification.

The PECT are delivered as computer-based tests. Each PECT assessment includes multiple modules, each with its own qualifying score. Modules consist of selected-response questions. To learn more about these tests, go to www.pa.nesinc.com.

Early Childhood PreK–4

The PreK–4 assessment includes three modules. Examinees must take and pass all three modules to qualify for Pennsylvania teacher certification. You may take one or all three modules at one test appointment.

Special Education PreK–8

The Special Education PreK–8 assessment includes two modules. Examinees must take and pass both modules to qualify for Pennsylvania teacher certification. You may take one or both modules at one test appointment.

Special Education 7–12

The Special Education 7–12 assessment includes two modules. Examinees must take and pass both modules to qualify for Pennsylvania teacher certification. You may take one or both modules at one test appointment.

Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests (PECT)
Special Education PreK-8
PDE Testing Requirements*
*(*Must have successfully completed PAPA tests.)*

Special Education PreK–8

The Special Education PreK–8 assessment includes two modules. Examinees must take and pass both modules to qualify for Pennsylvania teacher certification. You may take one or both modules at one test appointment.

Format	Selected-response items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1: 41 selected-response items • Module 2: 41 selected-response items
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1: 60 minutes • Module 2: 60 minutes <p>Examinees will also have 15 minutes for a computer-based testing tutorial. Examinees who take both modules during a single test session will also have a 15-minute break between the modules.</p>
Test Dates	By appointment, year round. Test appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
Test Sites	CBT sites are located in Pennsylvania, nationwide, and in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Canada. Locate a test center.
Qualifying Score	<p>Performance criterion (cut score): 220 per module</p> <p>For information about qualifying scores, visit http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/testing_requirements/8638.</p>
Reference Materials Provided for this Test	A glossary of common acronyms used in this field will be available during both modules. Review it now.
Test Fee	\$50 per module; \$87 for both modules. Review test fee and payment information.
Score Reporting	Test results are provided at the test center at the conclusion of your test session. Your score report is available within 10 business days after testing.
Testing Policies	When you register, you must agree to abide by all testing rules and policies. Read them now.
Prepare	View the preparation materials available for this test.

Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests (PECT)
Special Education 7-12
PDE Testing Requirements*
*(*Must have successfully completed PAPA tests.)*

Special Education 7–12

The Special Education 7–12 assessment includes two modules. Examinees must take and pass both modules to qualify for Pennsylvania teacher certification. You may take one or both modules at one test appointment.

Format	Selected-response items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1: 41 selected-response items • Module 2: 41 selected-response items
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1: 60 minutes • Module 2: 60 minutes <p>Examinees will also have 15 minutes for a computer-based testing tutorial. Examinees who take both modules during a single test session will also have a 15-minute break between the modules.</p>
Test Dates	By appointment, year round. Test appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
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Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality
Email Update
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Special Education Test Design Changes

The Special Education PK–8 and Special Education 7–12 tests are undergoing structural changes effective June 23, 2014. The changes involve a small reduction in the number of multiple-choice questions on each module and the addition of a 15-minute break between modules when both modules are taken together during a single test session. We are making these changes to improve the testing experience for the test taker. Due to the test design changes, there will be an increase in the fee when both modules are taken together, due to the increased time. The fee increase will be effective June 3, 2014. This is necessary due to the nature of the registration process.

Candidates who wish to take a Special Education test before June 23, 2014, and who wish to take both modules during a single test session, should register for the test before June 3, 2014. The restructured tests will be administered effective June 23, 2014.

The following table details the test design changes:

Special Education PK-8 and Special Education 7–12 Test Design Changes

Special Education PK–8 and Special Education 7–12 Test Design	CURRENT <i>(as of April 2, 2012)</i>	FUTURE <i>(beginning June 23, 2014)</i>
Module 1	60 min. 45 multiple-choice questions	60 min. 41 multiple-choice questions
Break	n/a	15 min.
Module 2	60 min. 45 multiple-choice questions	60 min. 41 multiple-choice questions
Total Test	120 min.	120 min. plus 15 min. break time

Summary of changes to Special Education PK-8 and Special Education 7–12 test designs:

- Time changes
 - ✓ One 15-minute scheduled break between modules when both modules are taken together during a single test session.