

05.15.2017

## Memo

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**To**

Indiana State Board of  
Education

**From**

**Indiana Technical  
Advisory Committee**

Karla L. Egan, TAC  
Chair; Derek Briggs,  
Chad Buckendahl,  
Gregory Cizek,  
Marianne Perie, Ed  
Roerber

**CC**

Cynthia Roach, Charity  
Flores

**Re**

CORE Tests

This memo is written as a follow up to a recent discussion about psychometric characteristics of the CORE tests. During the April 12-13, 2017 meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Pearson presented information about the Indiana CORE tests used as one component of the state's educator certification program. The discussions focused on the population of test takers, sample sizes for different fields, and validation activities including content validation, standard setting, and equating. As part of its discussion, the TAC noted the distinction between tests that are used for educational assessment purposes as opposed to the specific purpose for which credentialing examinations (e.g., licensure, certification) are interpreted and used.

Members of the TAC asked questions about development, validation (specifically content validation, standard setting, equating), and technical documentation for the program. The TAC made the several recommendations that are briefly summarized here. The TAC recommended that the Indiana Department of Education should:

1. develop a policy establishing periodic review of cut scores for examinations;
2. review standard setting results in combination with external validity evidence that may include performance disaggregated by institutions, and candidate subgroups (e.g., traditional pathway, alternative certification); and
3. request that its contractor develop and submit a plan for reviewing passing standards across fields and responding to psychometric characteristics in low incidence fields where adequate field testing may be challenging.

The TAC recommended that these topics be initially revisited at its July 2017 meeting to evaluate the plans, technical documentation, and other aspects of CORE test development and validation. The next steps in the process would be for the TAC to review this information and provide feedback to IDOE on the current procedures, plans, and documentation related to their technical adequacy and alignment with professional standards and best practices.

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