

MEMORANDUM

To: Educator Preparation Program Leaders and Licensing Advisors

From: Dr. Andrew Melin, Chief Innovation Officer
Scott Bogan, Director of Higher Education and Ed. Prep. Programs

Date: May 31, 2019

Re: Senate Enrolled Act 438 - Elimination of Basic Skills Requirement (3 of 3)

Background:

Per Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 438, beginning July 1, 2019, basic skills is no longer an educator preparation program (EPP) admission requirement.

Guidance:

Prior to SEA 438, admission to a teacher education program required Indiana teacher candidates to pass the Core Academic Skills Assessment (CASA) or meet an approved alternative. CASA is comprised of three subtests: reading, mathematics, and writing. Each subtest must be successfully completed with a passing score of 220. With the passage of SEA 438, however, it is important to note that SEA 438 does not simply eliminate CASA, but removes the basic skills requirement for EPP admission. As a result, teacher candidates are no longer required to successfully complete CASA or an approved alternative prior to program admission. This change applies to both traditional EPPs and alternative programs, such as the transition to teaching program.

SEA 438 does not, however, prohibit EPPs from requiring a basic skills assessment(s) for program admission. In order to ensure Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) accreditation, EPPs must continue to show alignment to a nationally-normed assessment for basic skills. It is important to note that this would be true *with or without CASA* as the results of a recent alignment study demonstrate that CASA was not sufficiently aligned to a nationally-normed assessment to be used as evidence for meeting [Standard 3.2](#).

There are several alternatives for EPPs to consider for meeting Standard 3.2 and the most updated options are available via [3.2 Measures of Academic Proficiency](#). EPP-created writing assessments may be recognized by CAEP if they meet CAEP criteria for EPP-created assessments.

Effective July 1, legislative language in IC 20-28-4-6 and IC 20-28-5-12 will no longer include basic reading, writing, and mathematics requirements. Please note that current pedagogical/developmental and content assessment requirements remain unchanged.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Bogan at 317-232-9178 or e-mail at sbogan@doe.in.gov.

This bill was authored by Senator Andy Zay. The full bill text can be found [here](#). Information regarding how to contact your legislators can be found [here](#).