



# Sustaining Educator Pipeline NewsFLASH



The Office of Higher Education (OHE) Newsflash delivers timely updates related to NYSED's [Sustaining Educator Pipeline](#). Focused on strengthening educator preparation, recruitment, development, and retention, these updates highlight key policies, programs, and strategies aimed at building a high-quality, diverse educator workforce. Past newsletters, newsflashes, and a subscription link are available online on the [OHE website](#).

## WEBSITES

[Office of Higher Education](#)

[Certification](#)

[Program Registration](#)

[Teacher and Leader  
Development](#)

[Educator Quality and  
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[NYSTCE](#)

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## Transition to Pearson's National Evaluation Series (NES) for Select NYSTCE Exams

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is excited to announce upcoming enhancements to the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations (NYSTCE) that will strengthen alignment with nationally recognized assessments. Beginning in late January, 2026, select NYSTCE exams will transition to Pearson's *National Evaluation Series* (Series).

The following transitions will take place:

- **Science Content Exams:** Biology (160), Chemistry (161), Earth Science (162), and Physics (163) will transition to Series equivalents: Biology (818), Chemistry (821), Earth and Space Science (825), and Physics (822).
- **Teaching Assistant Exam:** The Assessment of Teaching Assistant Skills (ATAS 095) will transition to NES *Foundations of Classroom Support and Instruction*. (Currently titled *Paraprofessional with Instructional Support* (519), this exam is undergoing a national rebranding to better reflect its focus.)

As part of this transition, **NYSED will establish new passing scores for these exams** and will convene standard-setting committees to make these determinations. Once new passing scores are set, the current NYSTCE versions will remain available for a six-month overlap period before being retired. Educators and faculty are encouraged to apply to participate in this important work. Please visit Test Development Participation Opportunities website to complete the brief online form. Questions may be directed to [certexams@nysed.gov](mailto:certexams@nysed.gov).

These updates are part of NYSED's commitment to maintaining rigorous, relevant certification exams that align with state and national standards and reflect the skills required to support teaching and learning in today's classrooms.

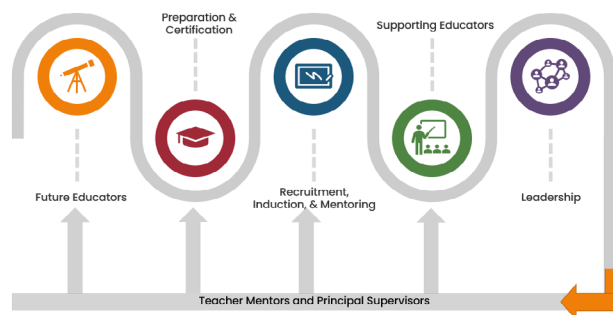


## Additional Certification Examinations to be Announced



The New York State Board of Regents adopted a regulatory amendment expanding flexibility in certification examination requirements, effective February 26, 2025. Under this amendment, candidates may now meet the content knowledge certification examination requirement by passing either a New York State Certification Examination (NYSTCE) or another certification examination that the Department has determined to be acceptable, provided it is aligned with State learning standards or professional education organization standards and developed in accordance with national industry and professional standards for educational testing.

In the coming weeks, the Department will announce that certification examinations from the PRAXIS and the Pearson National Evaluation Series (NES) examinations have been approved as acceptable certification examinations. Additional information will be shared through the Office of Teaching Initiatives [website](#) and in the coming OHE October Newsletter.



## NYSTCE Vouchers

### NYSTCE Exam Vouchers

Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) received their NYSTCE voucher codes. If your program has not yet received an email from Pearson VUE with your codes, please contact us at [certexams@nysed.gov](mailto:certexams@nysed.gov).

Please note that some programs may have received fewer vouchers than in previous years. If there are additional candidates in your programs with demonstrated financial need who require a voucher, please direct them to complete a brief [questionnaire](#) on the [OTLD website](#).

### NYSTCE Right Start Vouchers

NYSTCE Right Start learning courses, a suite of interactive, targeted courses designed to help candidates master the content for their certification area, are now available for select fields on the [NYSTCE website](#).

Online EPP bulk voucher purchase of Right Start learning courses now offers a custom dashboard. Programs can view and assign vouchers from the dashboard and follow candidate progress in Right Start courses. If your EPP is interested, please use the "Contact Us" button on the [NYSTCE website](#) to inquire.

Additionally, the Department has a limited number of Right Start Vouchers available for candidates with demonstrated financial need. Please direct eligible candidates to complete a [brief questionnaire](#) on the [OTLD website](#).



### Office of Higher Education

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### Sustaining Educator Pipeline Key



**Future Educators:**  
Efforts to engage the next generation of teachers and leaders.



**Preparation and Certification:**  
Collaboration or formal partnerships between LEAs, IHEs, or other eligible partners.



**Recruitment, Induction, and Mentoring:**  
Comprehensive activities to attract and support effective educators.



**Supporting Educators:**  
Differentiated and ongoing support, mentoring, induction, and evaluation for educators to advance their professional practice and improve their ability to produce positive student outcomes.



**Leadership:**  
Opportunities for both vertical and lateral growth within the profession