



PRESS RELEASE

Oregon Unveils Redesigned Web Portal for Educator Licensure Assessment Program

*State's New Educator Licensure Assessments Site
Includes Pearson's Secure, Easy-to-Use "My Account" Feature,
Access to Test Information and Practice Tests*

SALEM, Ore., and HADLEY, Mass. – Aug. 4, 2010 – The Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission today unveiled the newly redesigned Oregon Educator Licensure Assessments[®] (ORELA[®]) Web site, www.orela.nesinc.com. The debut of the site completes the integration of the NES[®] (National Evaluation Series[™]) tests from Pearson – new, contemporary teacher certification tests – into the existing Oregon teacher licensure program.

When testing begins this September, Oregon will be the first state to implement the NES tests. The NES teacher certification tests are comprehensive examinations aligned to professionally accepted national learning standards, covering areas such as essential academic skills; commonly taught elementary, middle, and secondary grade-level subjects; and school counseling. Oregon is using the NES tests to replace many existing tests for licenses and endorsements, integrating the new NES tests with the current customized ORELA program.

“The enhancements and updates that we have made to our teacher licensure testing program truly leverage the power of technology to improve the testing experience for candidates who wish to teach in Oregon,” said Victoria Chamberlain, executive director, Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission. “The newly redesigned ORELA Web site puts all of the information that candidates need to prepare and register for both the NES tests and our custom assessments right at their fingertips. In addition, the NES features computer-based testing, which allows candidates to take a test on demand and receive scores immediately after testing.”

The Evaluation Systems group of Pearson, the developer of the NES and the most experienced provider of standards-based educator certification testing programs,

collaborated with the TSPC to develop and launch this new portal for Oregon educator licensure testing.

“The Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission is truly leading the way by developing an integrated Web portal that ensures that its educator licensure candidates have easy access to all of the tools and information they need for a successful testing experience,” said William Gorth, Ph.D., president of the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson.

The ORELA Web site includes Pearson’s new “My Account” feature that gives candidates a single, online point of access for all of their testing information and services. “My Account” users can register for tests, print admission tickets, access score reports and view testing history at their convenience through a streamlined, user-friendly interface. Each candidate’s account requires a unique password and is securely protected by Pearson’s industry-leading encryption technology.

This single portal for all Oregon teacher licensure information includes access to NES[®] Profile, free online study guides for the NES tests that offer candidates quick access to test information such as content areas and competencies covered, as well as sample test questions and answers.

The site also connects candidates directly to NES[®] Practice, a series of online, interactive practice tests for the NES. Pricing for NES Practice starts at \$17.50 per test.

The practice tests are full-length and simulate the experience of taking a NES test. Upon practice test completion, candidates receive immediate scores and a comprehensive performance analysis. After receiving their scores, examinees can review the test questions to which they responded, explanations of each test question’s correct response, and other support materials.

More information about the NES is available at <http://www.NEStest.com>. For more information about the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson, go to <http://teacher.pearsonassessments.com>.

About Pearson

Pearson (NYSE:PSO), the global leader in education and education technology, provides innovative print and digital education materials for preK through college, student information systems and learning management systems, teacher licensure testing, teacher

professional development, career certification programs, and testing and assessment products that set the standard for the industry. Pearson's other primary businesses include the Financial Times Group and the Penguin Group. For more information about the Assessment group of Pearson, visit <http://www.pearsonassessments.com/>.

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