



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Pearson Launches Online Practice Tests for the NES (National Evaluation Series) Educator Certification Testing Program**

#### ***“NES Practice” Simulates the Experience of Taking the New, Contemporary, Computer-Based Educator Certification Tests***

**HADLEY, Mass. – April 28, 2010** – Pearson, the global leader in education, technology and services, today launched NES<sup>®</sup> Practice, a series of online, interactive practice tests for the [NES<sup>®</sup> \(National Evaluation Series<sup>™</sup>\) educator certification testing program](#). The Evaluation Systems group of Pearson, the most experienced provider of standards-based educator certification testing programs, developed NES Practice to help candidates to prepare for its contemporary, 100 percent computer-based educator certification testing program.

The NES, Pearson’s new educator certification program, is designed to help states ensure that the educators they certify are prepared to teach effectively in 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms. NES tests provide states with comprehensive exams aligned to professionally accepted national learning standards, covering areas such as essential academic skills, professional knowledge, reading instruction and commonly taught elementary, middle and secondary grade-level subjects.

Each [NES Practice](#) allows candidates to take a full-length practice test online, simulating the experience of taking a NES test. NES Practice tests are available for 32 educator certification tests and include authentic test questions developed for the NES testing program. Questions included in the NES Practice include both multiple-choice and constructed response questions, as appropriate. For each practice test, candidates will receive immediate, comprehensive feedback on their multiple-choice performance. Once scored, examinees can review the test questions to which they responded, along with explanations of each test question’s correct response and other support materials.

Pearson is leveraging the power of its innovative assessment technologies to score the writing portion of Essential Academic Skills NES Practice, using its patented Intelligent Essay Assessor<sup>™</sup> (IEA), an automated scoring tool. Powered by Pearson’s

state-of-the-art Knowledge Analysis Technologies™ (KAT™) engine, IEA automatically evaluates the meaning of text by examining whole passages, providing immediate feedback to NES Practice takers.

“We developed NES Practice as part of our overall commitment to ensuring that when candidates take the certification tests, they have had access to a variety of different tools and resources to help them prepare for the experience,” said William Gorth, Ph.D., president of the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson. “These new, affordable, online practice tests allow candidates to understand the competencies that NES tests will evaluate and the types of questions that are included, as well as to experience the way the tests are formatted and delivered.”

As part of its overall program to help candidates prepare for the NES tests, Evaluation Systems also developed free, online [NES Profile study guides](#) for each test. Each NES Profile features basic preparation content for that test, such as the format, content areas and competencies covered, as well as sample test questions accompanied by an explanation of each test question’s correct response, tips and strategies.

NES Practice tests and NES Profile study guides are available at <http://www.nestest.com/prepare.asp>. Pricing for NES Practice starts at \$17.50 per test. 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, reaches and engages today’s digital natives with effective and personalized learning, as well as dedicated professional development for their teachers. This commitment is demonstrated in the company’s investment in innovative print and digital education materials for pre-kindergarten through professional learning, student information systems and learning management systems, teacher development, career certification programs and testing and assessment products that set the standard for the industry. The company’s respected brands include Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall, Addison Wesley, Benjamin Cummings, the Stanford Achievement Test Series, the Wechsler family of assessments, SuccessNet, MyLabs, PowerSchool, SuccessMaker and many others. Pearson’s comprehensive offerings help inform targeted instruction and intervention so that success is within reach of every student at every level of education. Pearson’s commitment to education for all is supported by the global charitable giving initiatives of the Pearson Foundation. Pearson’s other primary businesses include the Financial Times Group and the Penguin Group. For more information, go to [www.pearson.com](http://www.pearson.com).

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