



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
333 MARKET STREET  
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333  
[www.pde.state.pa.us](http://www.pde.state.pa.us)

Dear Pennsylvania Educator:

Thank you for your interest in the new Pennsylvania Educator Certification Tests (PECT) program. The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality, encourages your participation in PECT test development activities. Please take the time to apply online to serve on a Content Advisory Committee or the Equity Assurance Panel, or to nominate colleagues who may be interested in serving on a Content Advisory Committee or the Equity Assurance Panel.

### **Program Information**

The Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality provides leadership for improvements in educator preparation so that the state has well-qualified, professional educators. To this end, the Bureau has initiated the redevelopment of educator certification tests and has contracted with the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson to develop and, beginning in fall 2011, administer the following tests:

**Basic Skills,  
PreK–4,  
Special Education PreK–8 and  
Special Education 7–12.**

The new PECT will be fully aligned with the applicable Pennsylvania Program Framework Guidelines.

### **Involvement of Pennsylvania Educators**

In all aspects of the test development process, the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality is committed to having content advisory committees composed of educators who have knowledge, expertise and experience in the Grade Band(s) that they are assigned to teach. Additionally, the Content Advisory Committees will be composed of public school educators and higher education faculty from diverse backgrounds, including cultural diversity; geographic representation; and members from urban, rural and suburban areas of Pennsylvania.

Furthermore, the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality is committed to bias prevention and will appoint an Equity Assurance Panel to conduct bias reviews to prevent introduction of irrelevant content and language into tests, which could affect candidate performance.

### **Test Development Opportunities**

Educators are needed to assist the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality with many test development activities including:

- reviewing of the test objectives;
- reviewing and validating of test items;
- field testing of new test items;
- selecting marker responses;
- assisting with the establishment of passing scores.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to e-mail the Committee Recruitment Group at the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson at [EvaluationSystemsCRG@pearson.com](mailto:EvaluationSystemsCRG@pearson.com).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Lynn Barnaby".

Theresa Lynn Barnaby, Director  
Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality  
Pennsylvania Department of Education