Policy for Composition of Passing Score Panels for Educator Certification/Licensure Tests

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking educators who have expertise and who represent the diversity of Illinois. These panels, composed of educators from across the state, will be trained in the standard setting process. Panel members will review educator licensure tests and participate in the score setting process. The testing contractor, Evaluation Systems group of Pearson, will run an analysis and report statistical results. The resulting data will be studied by the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board (SEPLB) and the Illinois State Board of Education. The Boards will then use the resulting data and additional reports from Evaluation Systems for the purpose of setting passing scores for required state assessments.

In order to ensure that members have the expertise and representation needed to serve on these panels, every effort will be made to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Panels will consist of (approximately) 24 members.
- For exams required of a specific group (e.g., teachers, administrators, or school service personnel), at least 14 of the panel members (or about 60%) should represent that group.
- Both white and non-white panelists (at least 8 or 33%) should be represented on the panels.
- Both male and female panelists should be included on the panel.
- No person on the panel should have failed a required exam.
- Geographical representation of the state is necessary.
- Special Education and Bilingual/ESL teachers should be represented (at least one teacher from each category or 10%).
- For exams covering content areas, panel members should have expertise with the content area of the exam (at least 18 or 75%).
- For the Test of Academic Proficiency, the panel should include public school educators and higher education faculty in areas of mathematics and English/language arts (at least 6 or 25%).
- Public school educators must be certified or endorsed in the above areas, and higher education faculty must have at least a Masters Degree in the above areas.
- The panel should include eight members (or about 33%) from higher education (and include not-for-profit entities if approved to offer educator preparation programs).
- PK-12 educators, administrators and school service personnel serving on a panel must have at least three years of experience in the professional role they represent on the panel.
- A goal is to include educators and School Counselors who hold National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification (a minimum of 4 or 15%).
- A goal is to include at least one and preferably two past recipients of the Illinois Teacher of the Year award.