TO: Teacher Preparation Institution Deans

FROM: Flora L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
      Director, Office of Professional Preparation Services

SUBJECT: Should MTTC Minor Subject Area Tests be Optional?

On March 9, 2004, the State Board of Education (SBE) held a discussion on making the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) subject area test in the minor optional for secondary teacher candidates. Secondary teacher certification candidates would still be required to complete a major or group major and minor or group minor, but the subject area test would be optional. This means that the teacher candidate would be recommended for an endorsement in their major only. Those candidates who select this option would have five years from the date of program completion to pass the minor subject area examination and be recommended for the additional endorsement.

As directed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) staff will establish a procedure whereby teacher candidates can apply on an individual basis to waive the minor testing requirement, effective immediately. The procedure to be followed is that the teacher candidate must submit, in writing, a request to the institution to be recommended for an endorsement in their major only. The institution will forward a list of the names of candidates to be recommended in their major only to the OPPS. Upon approval by the OPPS, the institution may forward the recommendation roster for certification by using the currently established process. I ask that you inform those candidates who may be affected by this new waiver process. Questions regarding the waiver process should be directed to me at (517) 373-6505.

In order to determine the feasibility of standardizing the waiver process, the SBE has directed the OPPS to convene a forum of educators to participate in a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of this new option. Following are the details of the forum:

When: Friday, April 16, 2004
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (includes lunch)
Location: State Board of Education Room, 4th Floor Hannah Building, Lansing
Contact: Debbie Barlow (517) 241-0138

Please confirm your attendance by Friday, April 9th. I look forward to your participation.

cc: Certification Officers