

Pilot Testing of National Assessments Announced

The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) and the Family and Consumer Sciences Credentialing Center are pleased to invite participation in pilot testing for three of the new standards-based national competency assessments. As part of the Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification (Pre-PAC) program, these assessments are appropriate for students completing rigorous programs of study. Following validation through pilot testing, these assessments will be available to document the achievements of family and consumer sciences students and programs; successful performance will qualify examinees for industry-recognized pre-professional certification.

The three assessments available at no cost during this pilot test period (October 1-30, 2009) include:

- [Broad Field Family and Consumer Sciences](#)
- [Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Personal and Family Finance](#)

Click on the assessment name in the list above to access the website and competency lists for each of the assessments. The assessments, which include 70 multiple choice items, are taken online. Use of calculators is permitted. The assessments contain 6-7 groups (corresponding to the domain areas on the assessment competency lists) of 10-15 items.

Both overall scores and scores corresponding to the domain areas shown on the competency lists will be provided to the student immediately following submission of the completed assessment. Once the pilot test data is analyzed and the certification cut-score is established, pilot test participants who qualify will receive certification. Because the goal of pilot testing is to ensure the reliability of the test and analyze the test psychometrics, student data reports will not be available to the teachers during pilot testing. Data reports will be available to test administrators once the assessments have been officially launched.

Teachers may involve students in the pilot if they:

- Verify that the pilot tests will only be administered to students and to those students who have already received instruction (including previous years) to the extent that they are expected to be proficient in the competencies identified for the assessment;
- Assure that students involved in pilot testing proportionately represent ability groups completing related programs of study;
- Provide a proctored testing environment utilizing computers with internet access;
- Understand that the purpose of pilot testing is to ensure test reliability and validity and that student data will not be reported to the school district; and
- Appropriately encourage/motivate students to perform at their highest level on the pilot test assessment (otherwise pilot data will be skewed).

To become a pilot test site and to obtain information about how to access the pilot tests, teachers should access the Pilot Test Registration using the button below. Once the registration has been processed, an email with the test site code and instructions for accessing the pilot tests will be sent to the email submitted during registration.

Questions about pilot testing should be directed to Lori Myers, Director of Pre-Professional Assessment and Certification (Pre-PAC), at 1-800-424-8080 or 703-706-4600 (ext. 4623) or LMyers@aafcs.org.

[Click Here to Register as a Pilot Site](#)

