

## Educational Testing Services Validation Process

The Department of Education, the Board of Regents, and the private and tribal colleges and universities with teacher preparation programs will be collaborating with Educational Testing Services (ETS) to conduct two phases of test validation. This test validation process is being directed by ETS in accordance with policies and procedures, which are professionally sound and legally defensible.

Phase I of the test validation process requires the state of South Dakota to review and select tests which it believes are appropriate measures of the state's teacher preparation standards and curricula. State panel members for this phase are chosen based on ETS's test review and selection guidelines. This phase began in June 2003 and will continue until tests have been selected for approximately 40 certification areas.

Phase II of the test validation process includes a more extensive examination of the content tests for various certification areas as well as the appropriate pedagogy test. The results of this standards setting phase will provide critical information for the setting of qualifying "cutoff" scores for each certification test. ETS will use their panel member criteria to select 10 – 15 panel members for each testing area from a pool of 30 – 40 teachers and teacher educators provided by the Department of Education and the public, private, and tribal colleges and universities.

In order to provide an ample pool of panel members for these standards setting studies, which began in November 2003, the Department of Education will be recruiting teachers and university faculty from across the state. ETS communicates directly with prospective participants who submit the required biographical form and covers any necessary travel, lodging, and per diem for selected panel members. ETS must have the minimum 10 – 15 panel members for each standards setting study or the study for that certification area will not be conducted.