Potential math teachers will have an easier time passing the state teacher test, but English graduates will have to make a higher score, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education decided Wednesday.

The board voted to effectively lower cutoff scores on four subject areas of the National Teacher Examinations and to raise the passing score for one area.

The new passing scores were requested by Education Superintendent Tom Clausen, who said he may propose other changes in the way the state decides who will be certified to teach in Louisiana schools.

Clausen did not say what kind of changes he is considering, but he repeated his oft-stated view that the NTE is not a good measure of teacher quality.

"There is absolutely no correlation between a person making a high score on the NTE and his actual classroom performance," the superintendent said.

Some board members disagreed with Clausen’s reasoning, but they agreed unanimously to adjust the cutoff scores.

"Anybody that scores low on the NTE is not going to make a good teacher," said board member John Bertrand of Crowley, former superintendent of

(See TEST 18A)