



# ISSUE MEMORANDUM

<b>DATE</b>	February 16, 2024
<b>TO</b>	Board Members, California State Board of Optometry (CSBO)
<b>FROM</b>	Randy Love, Administration & Licensing Manager
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Agenda Item 7C: Executive Officer’s Report – Examination and Licensing Programs

## 1. NBEO Part III Exam Updates

CSBO uses the examinations developed by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) to determine a candidate’s competency to practice. Prospective optometrists take these examinations during the time they are in optometric school. In California, applicants are required to take and pass the following NBEO examinations:

- [Part I – Applied Basic Science](#)
- [Part II – Patient Assessment and Management](#)
- [Part III – Clinical Skills](#)
- [Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease, TMOD](#)

NBEO has announced the new Part III Patient Encounters and Performance Skills (PEPS®) examination will launch in August 2024 and replace the current Part III Clinical Skills exam. According to NBEO, the new Part III exam will evaluate essential skills and measure a candidate’s ability to apply evidence-based knowledge to patient care. For more information regarding Part III PEPS please visit this [website](#).

NBEO has announced that registration for the Part III PEPS exam will open on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 6:00 pm PST**. NBEO has posted an announcement video and information video that can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).

[FAQs](#), a [Blueprint/Model](#), and [Candidate Guide](#) can be accessed by clicking the hyperlinks.

NBEO has also announced that practicing optometrists interested in submitting cases for the Part III PEPS examination, may apply for authorship on the [subject matter expert webpage](#).

**Board staff expects no negative impacts to board application or licensing processes and is disseminating this information for board member and public awareness.**

## 2. BreEZe Updates

Board staff work continually with staff from the Department of Consumer Affairs to improve the functionality of BreEZe and make updates required by changes to the law and to improve the user and staff experience. Updates to BreEZe are put into production once a month, and each BreEZe update can only include a limited number of changes.

The updates for the second quarter of fiscal year 2023/24 included:

- Implementation of SB 372 – Name and Gender Notification Request for Confidentiality
- Fixing an issue with expiration dates.

In preparation for the implementation of the Mobile Optometric Office program, Board staff has begun the process of building the BreEZe functionality that will support the program. As this is a complex process that will require multiple individual BreEZe changes, the full implementation will take a few updates to complete.

Future BreEZe updates will include:

- Implementation of Fee Increases – Effective 7-1-2024.
- Application and form updates to correct inaccurate error messages.
- Revisions to Renewal and other notices to include relevant information.
- Mobile Optometric Office – fees, certificate types, applications.

## 3. Statistical Review, Quarter 2, Fiscal Year 2023-2024

In the second quarter of the current fiscal year, the Board received 32 requests for a verification letter and 25 applications for a retired or retired volunteer status Optometry license.

A statistical review of the second quarter of the current fiscal year (2023-2024) is provided as Attachment 7Ci.

Attachment A shows the number of applications received and approved by type. Also included are the totals for the prior fiscal year (2022-2023).

Attachment B shows the total number of licenses by license type and by license status. This data is as of December 31, 2023.

Attachment C contain graphs that illustrate the number of applications processed along with the average processing time. These are shown by month and then by quarter. This data is as of January 31, 2024.