

**Licensure Assessment Changes**

Information on assessments for licensure is available on the [ADE’s Licensure Assessments webpage](#).

**Praxis –Test Changes**

Licensure Content Area	Current Version Praxis	New Version Praxis	New Cut Score	State Review Date	Arkansas Launch Date
School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA)	6011	6990	151	4/25/2018	9/1/2019
Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading*	5712	5713	N/A	N/A	9/1/2019
Core Academic Skills for Educators: Writing*	5722	5723	N/A	N/A	9/1/2019
Core Academic Skills for Educators: Mathematics*	5732	5733	N/A	4/16/2019	9/1/2019
School Superintendent Assessment (SSA)	6021	6991	157	4/17/2019	9/1/2020

\* Arkansas does not require Praxis Core. Educator Preparation Providers may continue to use the Praxis Core as an admission test.

**Praxis Core Tests**

For EPPs requiring the Praxis Core tests, the new Praxis Core tests will be available to test takers as of September 2019. The old Core tests will also be available during the 2019-2020 testing year after which they will be discontinued. ETS will update the Arkansas Test Requirements web page to include both new and old Core tests with asterisks for qualifying scores.

**Commissioner’s Memos**

The ADE issues regulatory guidance and informational notifications to school districts in the form of Commissioner's Memos. These memos are posted [online](#) on the ADE website. [Subscribe](#) to receive notifications on the latest published Commissioner's Memos.

Commissioner’s Memos issued relative to Licensure/Educator Preparation since the March newsletter include:

<a href="#">LIC-19-023 Middle School Science #257 Licensure Qualifies Educators to Teach Physical Science-Integrated #423000</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-027 LEADS 2.0</a>
<a href="#">COM-19-104 Professional Learning Communities Project Cohort Three</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-030 License Renewal Instructions for 2019</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-025 Arkansas Career Continuum Information for Educators and Program Providers</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-033 Beginning Administrator Induction and Beginning Administrator Registry</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-028 Novice Teacher Mentoring and New Educator Registry</a>

<a href="#">LIC-19-034 Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL) Late Summer Academy 2019</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-036 Orientation Training for Experienced Out-of-State Administrators and Administrators Returning to the Profession</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-037 Arkansas LEADS 2.0 Principal Rubric Training</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-035 EdReflect End-of-Year Data and Premium Product Access</a>
<a href="#">LIC-20-001 Revised Arkansas Qualified Teacher Designation Form</a>
<a href="#">LS-19-101 Curriculum Legislation</a>

### **State Board of Education Information**

Information regarding the State Board of Education can be found at <http://bit.ly/2hU9qvs>. Agendas for upcoming meetings and documentation from previous meetings can provide valuable information for all involved in educator preparation. Live streaming is also available on meeting days.

### **LEADS 2.0**

The Leader Excellence and Development System (LEADS) has been updated based on the 2015 Professional Standards for Educational Leaders and is now referred to as LEADS 2.0. The Arkansas Department of Education is collaborating with Educational Service Cooperatives, Leadership Preparation Programs, and Arkansas Educational Renewal Zones to host trainings across the state in the upcoming months. These three (3) hour training sessions will cover the LEADS 2.0 Principal Rubric. Rubrics for Assistant Principals and Curriculum Program Administrators will be rolled out later. The intended audience for this round of trainings are principals, principal supervisors, and university personnel in Leadership Preparation Programs. All sessions are the same standard training so only register for one session. There will virtual follow-ups scheduled after the training. Eleven (11) universities have agreed to host the training. It is recommended that personnel attend the training in their region but all sites are available. The registration link is available [here](#).

### **Pedagogical Competence**

Act 540 of 2019 removed all references to a requirement for a pedagogical assessment for licensure from State law. However, the current [Arkansas Department of Education \(ADE\) Rules Governing Educator Licensure](#) still require pedagogical assessments as mandated by the State Board. Currently ADE is in the process of revising the Rules so that Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) are granted the flexibility to determine the method used to document pedagogical competence of candidates. A candidate will have to successfully demonstrate pedagogical competence through the method identified by the EPP in order to be considered an educator preparation program completer and recommended for licensure.

Therefore, the ADE needs documentation of the method that will be used by each EPP to assess candidate pedagogical competence (ex: edTPA, Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT), EPP created assessment, etc). This method must be a part of program requirements and EPPs must be able to document successful completion by candidates who they identify as program completers.

### **Discontinuation of Fee Reimbursements for School Leadership Series Assessment**

The ADE currently reimburses one-half (1/2) of the assessment fee for candidates who pass the School Leadership Series (SLS) Assessment for an Arkansas Administrator License. Reimbursement

information is available on the [reimbursement form](#). The current assessment for Building Level Administrator and Curricular Program Administrator is the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (6011). Effective **September 1, 2019**, this assessment will be replaced with the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (6990) with a cut score of 151. There will be no reimbursements available for the 6690. The current assessment for District Level Administrator is the School Superintendent Assessment (6021). The SSA is also being regenerated and once replaced effective September 1, 2020, reimbursements will no longer be available.

### **New Licensure Endorsements Now Available**

- **Alternative Learning K-12:** The Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge (5511) exam was approved as the content assessment at the Arkansas State Board of Ed meeting on Feb 14. This assessment has been approved to allow educators working in Special Education (K-12) and Alternative Learning (K-12) environments to demonstrate content knowledge and be qualified under Arkansas Qualified Teachers to teach multiple core subjects. The finalized [competencies](#) are also published. Therefore, IHEs can begin submitting programs using the [Program Proposal Guide for New Endorsement Programs](#)
- **Online Teaching K-12:** The current Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) exam was approved as the licensure assessment at the Arkansas State Board of Ed meeting on Feb 14. Licensure rules allow the PLT to be used when a licensure content area assessment is not available for a specific licensure area. The finalized [competencies](#) are also published. Therefore, IHEs can begin submitting programs using the [Program Proposal Guide for New Endorsement Programs](#).

### **Instructional Facilitator**

The [Arkansas Career Continuum](#) provides an opportunity for Educator Preparation Providers to develop programs that lead to licensure designations. Instructional Facilitator K-12 licensure programs can be approved as a pathway to achieve the Lead Professional Licensure designation.

Program proposals should be developed using the Instructional Facilitator K-12 Licensure Program Proposal and the Addendum for IHEs Submitting Instructional Facilitator Programs for Lead Professional Licensure Designation. The proposal guide has been modified so duplicate information will not have to be submitted for review. Please see Instructional Facilitator K-12 Licensure Program Proposal and the addendum in the [Instructional Facilitator Google Folder](#).

Submission and approval using the Instructional Facilitator K-12 Licensure Program Proposal and Addendum will allow a program to lead to both Instructional Facilitator (licensure code #502) and the Lead Designation on a license.

When designing these licensure programs, please keep in mind the designation requires demonstration of competency through performance. The intention here is for candidates to participate in authentic field experiences that allow them to demonstrate proficiency in the [Arkansas Teacher Leader Model Standards](#) in K-12 settings.

Any currently approved programs of study leading to Instructional Facilitator K-12 will need submit documentation for approval by Feb 1, 2021. Any program not revised and implemented by August of 2021 will be removed from the ADE's Matrix of Approved Programs.

### **Proficiency/Awareness Pathway Reviews**

The Educator Preparation Unit and Learning Services have been working with Educator Preparation Providers and Education Service Cooperative (ESC) RISE Specialists to align all programs leading to Elementary Education K-6 and Special Education K-12 licensure with the [Foundations of Reading Competencies-Proficiency Level](#). These competencies were developed in coordination with Learning Services to align with the Arkansas Foundations of Reading Assessment and the expectations for Phase I of an ADE Prescribed Pathway to Proficiency. All programs leading to Elementary Education K-6 and Special Education K-12 licensure were required to submit documentation of alignment to these competencies by February 28, 2019.

At this time, programs are undergoing a thorough review process in order to have coursework/modules approved as Phase I of an ADE Prescribed Pathway to Proficiency. In May, ADE hosted a session that allowed representatives from 17 EPPs to receive personalized support from RISE Specialists regarding what was necessary to bring their reading coursework/modules to proficiency level. ADE has also provided EPPs with proficiency level training and resources aligned with the knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction. EPP representatives had to option of beginning the training in July or September and will have one year to complete. The Educator Preparation Unit plans to hold periodic follow-up sessions to monitor progress and gather feedback on the training.

Currently, seven of Arkansas's 24 EPPs offering K-6 and/or SpEd K-12 licensure programs have received approval for one or all of their Phase I Pathways to Proficiency. These courses/modules can be found under Pathway Q on the [ADE Prescribed Pathway Credentials](#) webpage. More EPPs have submitted revisions and should have proficiency pathways approved in the coming months. Ed Prep and Learning Services will continue to work to support EPPs who have not received approval.

Moving forward, Educator Preparation plans to base supports around the following outcomes:

- Arkansas Foundations of Reading Assessment scores (available fall 2019 for spring 2019 completers, which will be the largest group of K-6/SpEd K-12 licensure candidates required to take the assessment to date)
- Recent completer surveys (begin survey development fall 2019, first administration spring 2020)

Please contact Sharlee Crowson, [Sharlee.crowson@arkansas.gov](mailto:Sharlee.crowson@arkansas.gov) (501) 683-1524, with any questions surrounding this process.

### **Educational Leadership Programs**

All programs licensing in Building Administrator P-12(Principal) or District Administrator P-12(Superintendent) must submit a [Program Proposal for a New Educator Licensure Endorsement Program](#) by February 1, 2020 in order for the program to maintain State approval. ADE representatives from Educator Effectiveness will meet with the 2020 Leadership Preparation Program Working Group in October to develop rubrics used to evaluate these programs.

Curriculum/Program Administrator (CPA) programs are not required to submit at this time. The ADE is currently working to revise the competencies for three CPA areas- Special Education Administrator P-12, Curriculum Administrator P-12, and Gifted and Talented Administrator P-12. Once these competencies are finalized, a timeline for program revisions will be determined.

### **Competency Tracker**

Program revisions are often driven by changes to the [Educator Competencies](#). Educator Preparation uses the [Competency Revision Tracker](#) as a tool to plan for upcoming program revisions. This is a working document and is subject to change but can be used as a reference to track upcoming program revisions.

### **Assessment Fee Reimbursements for Educators Adding Chronically Critical Academic Shortage Areas - Continues**

As part of the [ADE's Teach Arkansas Campaign](#), the ADE reimburses assessment fees for teachers adding a chronically critical shortage area to their current Arkansas license after September 1, 2018. The teacher must be currently teaching in an Arkansas public or charter school and complete all testing and coursework as applicable to the licensure area. The Fee Reimbursement form and the list of chronically critical shortage areas is available on the [Licensure Assessment website](#) under Related Files called Licensure Endorsement Test Reimbursement GUIDANCE.

### **Middle School (4-8) Licensed Teachers Teaching Physical Science – Integrated**

Refer to [LIC-19-023](#) for more information. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, teachers with the current middle school science #257 will be able to teach Physical Science Integrated course #423000. There are currently 1335 teachers with that licensure code. Details and the standards for the Physical Science-Integrated course are available [here](#). More information on changes to science requirements for graduation is available [here](#).

### **Social Media**

Be sure to follow all ADE activities on social media at the following locations:

<https://www.facebook.com/arkansased>

Twitter Accounts:

- @arkansased
- #TeachArkansas
- #ARStudentFocused
- #plc4AR
- #RISEArkansas
- @effect\_ar