

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	TBD	4/17/2019	9/1/2019

* Arkansas does not require Praxis Core as a basic skills assessment. Educator Preparation Providers continue to use the Praxis Core as an admission test.

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 January newsletter include:

COM-19-084 Arkansas Computer Science Educator of the Year Award
LS-19-069 Alternate Pathway to Graduation for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities
LIC-19-019 NBCT Regional Orientations and Registration
LS-19-066 Arkansas Graduation Requirements and Thirty-Eight (38) Required High-School Course Updates
LS-19-070 STEM Summer Internship for Teachers
LS-19-071 2019 ESOL Institutes Announcement and Registration Information
RT-19-033 ADE Summit Registration
LIC-19-022 ADE Reception for New National Board Certified Teachers

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.

Fill You in Fridays

[Fill You in Friday](#) is a short, weekly video that highlights information about what is happening in K-12 education.

Information on TEACH Grants

Recipients of the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant whose grants were converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans now have the opportunity to request reconsideration of the conversion. This opportunity is for teachers who met the service requirement but did not comply with the annual certification requirement. The program provides up to \$4,000 a year to qualifying students who are in the process of completing or plan to complete necessary course work to become a teacher. Information is now available on the [Federal Student Aid –Teach Grant](#) website.

Pathways to Teaching for Paraprofessionals

Arkansas has several programs that allow a paraprofessional to continue working while completing a degree or teacher licensure program. Information has been published on the [Routes to Teacher Licensure/Preparation](#) website, and handouts are available at recruitment events. If your institution wants to promote a program, send information to Joan Luneau (Joan.Luneau@arkansas.gov).

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](#).

Proficiency Pathway Reviews

All required documentation for educator preparation programs licensing in Elementary Education K-6 or Special Education K-12 was due Feb 28, 2019. If it is found upon initial review that all required documentation was submitted and acceptable, then the K-6 or SpEd K-12 program will remain on the ADE Matrix of Approved Programs. However, for the coursework imbedded in the program to be approved as a proficiency pathway, the program will be undergoing a more extensive review.

The ADE Educator Preparation Unit and the Division of Learning Services has organized a review panel of RISE Specialists who have received proficiency-level training in the knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction to review all programs the first week of April. The panel will review the programs and provide feedback accordingly. Ed prep programs will then have the opportunity to respond to the review with additional documentation. The Educator Preparation Unit will work with educator preparation programs and the review panel until a decision can be reached regarding approval.

Please keep in mind that a preparation program will not be considered a proficiency pathway until the coursework meeting the competencies is approved. Therefore, educator preparation programs may consider advising candidates completing the program in spring 2021 or thereafter to postpone taking the proficiency pathway coursework until it is approved.

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

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.

Teaching in STEM Workshop

The Teaching in STEM workshop will be held Friday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at UA-Pulaski Tech in North Little Rock. The workshop will offer both a student track and a faculty and staff track with the focus being to increase and retain African-Americans interested in becoming STEM teachers. More information and a link to registration is available on the [Arkansas STEM Coalition page](#).

Licensure Assessment Reviews

On April 16 and 17, 2019, Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) will be facilitating reviews of the following tests:

- School Superintendent Assessment (SSA) (a regeneration of the current 6021)
- Performance Assessment for School Leaders (PASL) - (the ADE is interested in school leader feedback)
- Elementary Education: Content Knowledge for Teaching (CKT) (similar to the 5001)
- Praxis Core: Math (newly regenerated)

The ADE is interested in feedback from educator preparation providers and school practitioners on these four assessments. Seating is currently available, and the registration form closes Friday, April 5, 2019:

SSA and PASL

<https://educatorpreparation.wufoo.com/forms/z1pzy0q41k6xwb7/>

ELED: CKT and Core: Math

<https://educatorpreparation.wufoo.com/forms/m1ij6p670fbj37y/>

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC)

This organization is made up of members representing professional standards boards, commissions, and state departments of education. These entities are responsible for the preparation, licensure, and discipline of educational personnel. The ADE has been an active voting member in NASDTEC for many years. Several Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education (IHES) are also active as non-voting associate members. The organization and its conferences are a great way to network with other states around standards and practices for preparation and certification of professional educators. The 91st annual conference is scheduled for June 2-4, 2019, in Denver, Colorado. Registration information and a draft conference agenda is available on the [NASDTEC website](#).

Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL) Information

APPEL is an alternative route to teacher licensure administered by the ADE. Applications are now being accepted until May 31, 2019, for the APPEL program. The summer Academy will be held June 3-7, June 10-14, and June 24-28. The week of June 17-21 is skipped to allow APPEL participants and staff to participate in the ADE Summit. All information is available on the [APPEL information page](#) and the link to the online application is available under Related Files.

Teach Arkansas Lecture Series

The fourth event for the Teach Arkansas Lecture Series will be held at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Hathaway-Howard Fine Arts Center on Monday, April 15, 2019. Marie Ferdinand-Harris is the guest speaker. For more information and to register go to <http://bit.ly/TAlectureFour>.

2019 Arkansas Department of Education Summit

The schedule is available and registration is now open for the 2019 ADE Summit to be held June 18-21, 2019, in Hot Springs. The Summit combines many smaller conferences into one event. Details are available at the ADE Summit 2019 site at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/ade-summit-2019>.

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