

Praxis –Test Changes

Subject	Current Version	New Version	New Cut Score	State Review Date	Arkansas Launch Date
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	5361	5362	TBD	Spring 2015	9/1/2016 ¹
Early Childhood (P-4)	5022	5025	TBD	Spring 2015	9/1/2016
American Sign Language PI	0632		170	12/2/2015	Fall TBD

¹2016 is first ETS administration date

The Praxis website is the most up to date source for IHEs and candidates to ensure the correct tests are being used. <http://www.ets.org/praxis/ar/requirements>

Candidate Placements

Field experience and internship placements for candidates in traditional and nontraditional programs of study for educator licensure “shall not include priority schools, public schools or school districts in academic distress, or school districts under administrative takeover.” This includes all candidate placements for future field experiences. Candidates already in place when a school is added to a list are not affected. Under extreme circumstances an approval can be granted by the Department of Licensure to place candidates in a listed school. Complete the placement form [here](#).

The currently posted lists can be found at the links below:

[Academic Distressed Schools List - February 2015](#)

[2015 Priority Schools List](#)

Welcome Community Colleges

We would like to welcome our Community Colleges to the Newsletter Distribution List. We have 30 new members. If you are at a community college and have any questions or are interested in someone from Educator Preparation talking with your teacher candidates, contact [Joan Luneau](#).

All previous newsletters are available [here](#).

Computer Science, Grades 4-12

Act 187 requires each public high school and public charter school to offer a course in computer science. Computer Science competencies have been posted and Computer Science has been added as a 4-12 licensure content area. It is now available as an endorsement to a current license by testing out. The next testing window is February 1-13, 2016. More information about Computer Science in Arkansas can be found [here](#).

Special Education Resources K-6, 7-12

Changes in Licensure rules in October included the addition of a new Special Education licensure area. Programs of study for the K-6, 7-12 Special Education Resource endorsement can now be submitted. These programs of study will prepare an already licensed teacher in ELA, Math, and Science K-6, 4-8, or 7-12 to teach students with exceptionalities in an inclusion setting and co-taught and/or resource settings. Indirect services could also be covered as well by individuals with this license. These programs of study need to be submitted following the guidelines outlined in the [Protocol for the Review and Approval of Programs of Study Leading to Educator Licensure or Endorsement in Arkansas](#) and using the Proposal packet found [here](#). If the program does not lead to a degree or certificate, the proposal can be sent directly to [Heather Newsam](#) at the ADE.

Commissioner’s Memos

The ADE issues regulatory guidance and informational notifications to school districts in the form of a "Commissioner's Memo." These memos are posted online as soon as they are approved for release. They are posted [here](#). You can also subscribe at this site.

Commissioner memos issued for Licensure since the September newsletter include:

LIC-16-010 Project Director(Mentoring) Deadlines for 2015-2016
LIC-16-011 Licensure Test for new Age 3-4 Special Education Endorsement
LIC-16-012 Final Rule: Rules Governing Educator Licensure
LIC-16-013 Educator Licensure System Update Profile Email
LIC-16-014 Proposed Rule - Policies Governing Educator Preparation Program Approval
LIC-16-015 School District Highly Qualified Teacher Plan 2015-2016
LIC-16-016 Background Checks for Employment, Licensure, and Preservice Teachers
LIC-16-017 Final Rules Effective December 28, 2015: T.E.S.S., L.E.A.D.S., and Background Checks

Educator Preparation Program Approval

The Educator Preparation Section is continuing to accept proposals from IHEs for new programs or any revised programs of study. Proposals from public IHES must be submitted to Lillian.Williams@adhe.edu for new programs only. The ADHE website has been updated and all information and forms related to programs proposals can be found [here](#). Proposals to revise programs and all proposals from independent IHEs should be sent directly to Heather.Newsam@arkansas.gov at the ADE. Information and forms for proposals to be submitted directly to the ADE can be found [here](#).

Dyslexia Conference

The ADE is hosting a dyslexia conference on March 7-8, 2016 in Hot Springs. Educators will hear strategies for successfully working with students with dyslexia from nationally renowned speakers as well as Arkansas educators. Topics will include: Screening and Identification, RTI, using data to guide core instruction, progress monitoring, 504 and SpEd, and success stories/panel discussions. Multiple vendors will be in attendance.

IHEs with dyslexia programs are welcome to submit a proposal to showcase their program. More information can be found [here](#).

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

On December 10, 2015 the [ESSA](#) went into effect to replace No Child Left Behind. The new K-12 law gives control back to states and local districts. We will monitor the impact that this will have on Educator Preparation Programs.

Upcoming Meetings

March 7-8 Dyslexia Therapy Conference, Hot Springs

March 9 Early Childhood Education (5025) Praxis Review, ADE Auditorium

March 9 English to Speakers of Other Language (5362), ADE Auditorium

April 28-29 TESS Training for Institutions of Higher Education, Location TBD