

Praxis –Test Changes

Subject	Current Version	New Version	New Cut Score	State Review Date	Arkansas Launch Date
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) APRIL SBE	5361	5362	155	3/9/2016	9/1/2016
Early Childhood (P-4) APRIL SBE	5022	5025	156	3/9/2016	9/1/2016
American Sign Language PI	0632	0634	170	12/2/2015	1/14/2016

The [Praxis website](#) is the most up to date source for IHEs and candidates to ensure the correct tests are being used.

Computer Science, Grades 4-12

Act 187 requires each public high school and public charter school to offer a course in computer science. It is now available as an endorsement to a current license by testing out. The next testing windows are April 4-16, 2016 and July 4 – 16, 2016. More information about Computer Science in Arkansas can be found [here](#).

Arkansas Tech University recently received Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) approval for a program of study leading to first-time licensure with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science Education. Final approval is pending the April 22, 2016, Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Meeting.

A computer science teaching license option has been added to the Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL) program. To support those who want to become licensed to teach computer science, ADE has allocated funding to pay the program’s tuition for up to 50 qualified candidates. The fee for the program is \$1,300 each year of the two-year program. Applications for the APPEL program, including the computer science option, will be accepted until May 27, 2016. To learn more about the program and the computer science option, visit [APPEL’s website](#).

Special Education Resource K-6, 7-12 Endorsement Programs

This endorsement is for licensed teachers in K-6 or ELA, Science, or Math (4-8 or 7-12). The program includes a minimum of the ADE’s SpEd 101 academy plus nine additional hours. The candidate must also document passing scores on the approved content assessment. The Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354) was adopted with a cut score of 151 for this licensure area.

Programs listed below have been recently approved and will be implemented summer 2016.

Institution	Program Type	Delivery Type
Harding*	Graduate	Online
Henderson State University	Graduate	Online
Henderson State University	Undergraduate	Face to Face
John Brown University	Graduate	75% Online
UA Fayetteville	Graduate	Online
UA Fort Smith*	Undergraduate	Face to Face
UA Monticello	Graduate	Online

*awaiting final institutional approval that is anticipated by April 2016

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 December newsletter include:

LIC-16-019 TESS and LEADS Law and Process, Teachscape, and BloomBoard Trainings for Administrators
LIC-16-020 Beginning Administrator Enhancement Seminar, March 7, 2016, Information and Registration
LIC-16-021 New Educator Licensure Assessment for American Sign Language
LIC-16-022 Revised Computer Science Praxis Cut Score
LIC-16-023 Changes to Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements
LIC-16-024 2016 Spring Educator Career Fair
LIC-16-025 Office of Educator Preparation Grant Proposal for 2016-2017 for the Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL) Program
LIC-16-026 Information on the Teach Chinese in Arkansas Program for Academic Year 2016-2017
LIC-16-027 Information on the Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL) Program for Academic Year 2016-2017
LIC-16-029 School Leadership Series Assessment Fee Reimbursement Update
LIC-16-030 Applications for the Master Principal Program
LIC-16-031 Updating your AELS profile
LIC-16-032 Regional Orientation Meetings for Teachers Seeking National Board Certification
LIC-16-033 Licensure Test for Early Childhood/Special Education Integrated (B-K) First-Time License
LIC-16-035 Pedagogical Assessment for Educator Licensure

Teacher Performance Assessments (TPAs)

On March 10, 2016, the State Board of Education gave approval for candidates to be able to substitute a nationally scored edTPA in lieu of the state-approved pedagogical assessment (Principles of Learning and Teaching or the World Language Pedagogy), if the edTPA score meets the minimum passing standards. This will only be for candidates enrolled in an Educator Preparation program approved to use edTPA. Candidates that participated in the ADE Pilot program will be able to take advantage of this approval. The Educator Preparation Unit will work with Education Preparation Programs that want use edTPA as part of their program. A program proposal will need to be submitted. Contact Joan.Luneau@arkansas.gov for more information.

The National Observational Teaching Exam (NOTE) is another TPA that is under development, and Arkansas is playing a role in that development. NOTE is a program that assesses performance of high-leverage teaching practices and computer delivered assessments of Content Knowledge for Teaching. The NOTE works by capturing a video of a candidate's teaching performance as they interact with avatar students in a virtual classroom. Currently, Arkansas Tech University and Southern Arkansas University are working with Educational Testing Services (ETS) during this development.

Dyslexia Conferences

The ADE Dyslexia Conference for Arkansas Schools was held March 7-8 in Hot Springs Arkansas. Over 700 attended the two-day conference that included general sessions, panel discussions, breakout sessions, and multiple vendors. The conference was provided free of charge for K-12 public, private and charter schools. Several Institutions of Higher Education with dyslexia programs also participated as

presenters or exhibitors. Next year's conference is already in discussion and dates will be communicated as soon as they are set.

The Guy Fenter Education Cooperative Center will be hosting a dyslexia conference at the Fort Smith Convention Center on October 6-7, 2016. For more information, follow on Facebook at [GFESC Focus on Dyslexia: Building Bright Futures Conference](#).

Critical Shortage Areas in Arkansas

Pursuant to Ark. Code. Ann. §6-15-403 and §6-81-609 it is required that the State Board of Education declare licensure areas as Critical Academic Shortage Areas. The following areas were determined to be critical academic shortage areas in Arkansas for the 2016-2017 school year:

Agriculture Science & Technology	Library Media
Art	Mathematics
Computer Science*	Physical Science (Chemistry, Physics)**
Family and Consumer Science	Spanish
French	Special Education

*Computer Science is identified as a shortage area based on extranormal criteria. Because there were no teacher, substitute teacher, or waiver data for Computer Science available in 2014-2015, Computer Science did not fit in the criteria used to determine the other shortage areas. New legislation (Act 187) requires that every Arkansas public high school and public charter high school offer at least one Computer Science course at the high school level.

** Due to the recent change in licensure from the area of Physical Science to individual areas of Chemistry and Physics, these two are disaggregated and offered as individual shortage areas for 2016-2017.

These critical shortage areas have been approved by the US Department of Education and may benefit student grant and loan recipients who qualify pursuant to specific provisions addressed in regulations concerning Federal student financial aid programs. These programs are administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Financial Aid Office.

Profiles in Teacher Leadership

This [series](#) is a way to promote the educator profession in Arkansas and showcase examples of teacher leadership in Arkansas schools. The latest profile is of Meghan Ables, 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. Meghan became a licensed educator through the ADE's APPEL program.

Key Points

Key Points is a monthly video produced by the Arkansas Department of Education to inform the public of key points in the progress of K-12 education. Visit the [Key Points Website](#) for current and past videos. Be sure to share with your candidates as these videos are a great way for your educator candidates to keep up with happenings in Arkansas.

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 degree or certificate programs or changes to degrees or certificates. An inventory of AHECB approved degree programs at all public IHEs can be found [here](#). The ADHE website has been updated and all information and forms related to ADHE 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](#).

Upcoming Meetings

April 14 [ArACTE CAEP Institutional Review](#) – ATU, Russellville

April 15 [ArACTE Spring Conference](#) – ATU, Russellville

April TBD – Review of Praxis Math assessment – ADE, Little Rock

April 28-29 TESS Training for Institutions of Higher Education, ADE, Little Rock