

**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
Computer Science	5651	5652	142	4/26/2018	9/1/2018
School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA)	6011	6990	151	4/25/2018	9/1/2019
Adult Education	N/A	5511	148	5/16/2016	9/1/2018

**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. [Subscribe](#) to receive notifications on the latest published Commissioner's Memos.

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

<a href="#">LIC-19-002 Discontinuation of School Leadership Series Assessment Fee Reimbursements</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-004 Assessment Fee Reimbursements for Educators Adding Chronically Critical Academic Shortage Areas</a>
<a href="#">COM-19-008 ADE Rules -- FINAL</a>
<a href="#">LS-19-002 Statewide Same Day Viewing of "Chasing The Dragon"</a>
<a href="#">COM-19-011 FINAL RULES -- Governing Eligibility and Financial Incentives for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-005 New ancillary licenses approved for English to Speakers of Other Languages, ESOL K-12 and Dyslexia K-12</a>
<a href="#">RT-19-007 AELS License Expiration Notification System (AELSX) Release</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-006 TESS and LEADS Rubric Update</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-007 Critical Academic Licensure Shortage Areas with Grade Levels for the 2018-2019 School Year</a>
<a href="#">COM-19-026 Final ADE Rules: Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators</a>
<a href="#">COM-19-028 2018 STEM Festival and Thunder Over the Rock Event - Update 1</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-008 Summary of Changes to Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators</a>
<a href="#">LS-19-018 Arkansas Civics Exam Information</a>
<a href="#">COM-19-029 528 Computer Science Arkansas License Application/Renewal Fee Reimbursement Information</a>
<a href="#">COM-19-036 2018 STEM Festival and Thunder Over the Rock Event - Update 2</a>

### **Fill You in Fridays**

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

### **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.

### **New Exception Area Endorsements**

The ADE Educator Prep Unit has developed a draft of competencies for both the Online Teaching and Alternative Learning endorsements. ADE and IHE representatives will be working to finalize these competencies in the upcoming months. Currently, there is no content area assessment available for either of these areas. However, licensure rules allow ADE to use a current Principles of Learning and Teaching exam or request that the State Board approve an alternative method of demonstrating subject matter content competency.

The following assessment recommendations will be presented to PLSB in December:

- Alternative Learning- ETS-Praxis Fundamental Subjects (5511)
- Online Teaching- Current Principles of Learning and Teaching exam

Once competencies are finalized and test options are approved, IHEs can begin submitting programs for approval.

### **Educational Leadership Programs**

The competencies for [Grades P-12 Administrator-School Level](#) have been finalized and are now published on the ADE website. These competencies, along with the guidance provided in [the ADE Program Proposal Guide for New Endorsement Programs](#), outline the updated expectations for school level educational leadership programs. According to the ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure (2018), by the fall of 2020, educational leadership programs must be approved under the new expectations to obtain and maintain state approval. The deadline to submit a proposal for a new endorsement to the ADE is February 1, 2020, for a program to be implemented in the following fall semester. Effective September 1, 2019, the [School Leaders Licensure Assessment \(6990\)](#) with a cut score of 151 will replace the current SLLA (6011). This assessment is aligned with the 2015 Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL).

Requirements and competencies for the P-12 Curriculum Program Administrator license and P-12 District Level license are in progress, and guidance is forthcoming.

## **K-6/SpEd K-12 Revisions**

*All programs will need to have the following documentation approved by Fall 2019 in order to maintain program approval.*

### **Undergraduate programs leading to first-time K-6/SpEd K-12 licensure:**

- If no courses are changing, submit the following:
  - ✓ Matrix documenting alignment to the appropriate Arkansas Educator Competencies ([Competencies for Elementary Teachers, Grades K-6](#) or [Competencies for Special Education Teachers, Grades K-12](#))
  - ✓ Updated syllabi for courses meeting competencies
- If courses are being added/removed or course titles/course numbers are changed, follow the [Program Proposal Guide for Program Revisions](#). If considered a major revision, public universities should submit revisions to ADHE.

### **Alternative educator preparation programs leading to K-6/SpEd K-12 licensure:**

- If no courses are changing, submit updated syllabi showing objective alignment to the [Foundations of Reading Competencies-Proficiency Level](#). The connection between objective and competency should occur on the syllabus/module description itself.
- If courses are being added/removed or course titles/course numbers are changed, follow the [Program Proposal Guide for Program Revisions](#). If considered a major revision, public universities should submit revisions to ADHE.

## **Awareness Level Revisions**

Programs leading to licensure areas other than Elementary Education K-6 or Special Education K-12 should present evidence of alignment to the [Foundations of Reading Competencies-Awareness Level](#).

[ADE approved prescribed pathways for awareness](#) are aligned to the awareness level competencies. The approved awareness level training provided on ArkansasIDEAS will total 18 hours of instructional content and began bi-monthly release in summer 2018. The entire 18 hours is projected to be fully released by June 2021.

All other programs may submit evidence of alignment to the Foundations of Reading Competencies-Awareness Level no later than fall 2021. Programs that do not submit this evidence will be removed from the matrix of approved programs.

## **Literacy Round-Tables**

The School of Education at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith and the College of Education at University of Central Arkansas (UCA) will be hosting the third literacy round-table discussion with literacy faculty. The session will be held on the UCA campus on Friday, October 5, 2018, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. The discussions were started as a way for educator preparation programs to collaborate to prepare candidates for the requirements of Act 416 of 2017. The meetings have included discussions on research, literature, models of teaching reading, and the assessments based on the science of reading.

### **Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators**

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation (2009) are under revision and will now be known as the Professional Standards and Competencies for early Childhood Educators. The first public draft of this document is now available, as well as a survey that can be used to provide feedback. NAEYC will host a webinar to provide an opportunity to learn more about the revisions. To view the draft, access the survey, and register for the webinar, please visit this NAEYC [webpage](#).

### **Expanding Quality Pre-K in Arkansas**

The [Invest Early Coalition](#) is an advocacy group that is working together to improve education, health, and well-being for children ages 0-5. The group was founded 10 years ago to expand investment in state-funded pre-K programs. They are currently working on improving early childhood education by strengthening the early childhood workforce. It is important that Educator Preparation Programs follow the work that is being done in early childhood education. More information including newsletter sign-up is available on the website.

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

The ADE currently reimburses one-half (1/2) of the assessment fee for a candidate who passes a School Leadership Series (SLS) Assessment for an Arkansas Administrator License. This program will no longer be available for anyone testing after August 31, 2019. Information for reimbursements until that date 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 this assessment. The current assessment for District Level Administrator is the School Superintendent Assessment (6021). That assessment is also being regenerated and once replaced, reimbursements will no longer be available.

### **NEW! Assessment Fee Reimbursements for Educators Adding Chronically Critical Academic Shortage Areas**

As part of the [ADE's Teach Arkansas Campaign](#), the ADE has implemented an assessment fee reimbursement 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 for online submission is available on the [Licensure Assessment website](#) under related files.

### **Teach Arkansas Lecture Series – Part 3**

As part of the [ADE's Teach Arkansas Campaign](#), the ADE has been providing the [2018-2019 Teach Arkansas Lecture Series](#) to provide present and future educators the chance to hear great speakers covering a variety of subjects. The third lecture in the series is scheduled on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, in Centennial Auditorium, on the Arkansas State University campus in Jonesboro, Arkansas. The speaker will be Dr. Donyall D. Dickey, Chief Executive Officer of Educational Epiphany, a professional development and publishing firm in the Washington D.C. Metro Area. Dr. Dickey will

focus on increasing student achievement through building professional capacity. Registration is required for this free event and is available through [Eventbrite](#).

### **Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Information**

The Professional Communities at Work Project™ is a statewide initiative that started in Arkansas in fall 2017 to implement the provisions of Act 427 of 2017. The first cohort for the PLC project included 11 schools and one district. The second cohort includes eight schools and two districts. The districts receive resources, training, and support to build a culture of collaboration in their schools to enhance student learning. Detail information including list of participating schools is available on the [ADE's Professional Learning Communities in Arkansas website](#).

This fall the ADE is collaborating with Education Preparation Providers (EPPs) and Education Renewal Zones (ERZs) to sponsor staff to attend a Professional Learning Institute. The institution and dates are as follows:

- Salt Lake City, Utah Oct. 8-10
- Des Moines, Iowa, October 24-26
- Atlanta, GA, November 12-14

The ultimate goal of this collaboration is to identify how the PLC vocabulary, practices, and concepts can become part of educator preparation so that candidates see the process modeled and are prepared to serve in the schools they will teach. In addition to the institute, the ADE has provided each EPP with copies of the book: A New Way, Introducing Higher Education to Professional Learning Communities at Work.

### **Licensure Assessment Supports**

The ADE has compiled a set of licensure assessment supports that include study guides, online resources and test taking strategies. The materials are available in a [drop box folder](#) and will be updated as new materials become available.

### **Thunder Over the Rock**

The Little Rock Air Force Base will once again be hosting an air show. This year's event will be held October 26-28, 2018. In conjunction with the airshow will be a STEM festival. The festival will include STEM activities, STEM exhibits, and hands on activities for all grades. Friday, October 26 will be dedicated to student engagement. See the updates in the commissioner memos above. Information on how to become an exhibitor is available on the [Thunder Over the Rock website](#).

### **SAVE THE DATE – 2019 Impacting Tomorrow Summit**

ADE's Division of Educator Effectiveness is hosting the 2019 Impacting Tomorrow Summit on Friday, February 8, 2019, at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. This day is designed for high school students from around the state to explore the opportunities to make education a career. More information will be forthcoming or you can contact Jeff Dyer, [Jeff.Dyer@arkansas.gov](mailto:Jeff.Dyer@arkansas.gov).

### **SAVE THE DATE – 2019 Arkansas Education Summit**

The Arkansas Department of Education will host the 2019 Arkansas Education Summit June 18-21, 2019, in Hot Springs. This is one not to miss! Information will be communicated throughout the upcoming months.

### **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

### **Upcoming Events**

Monday, October 1, 2018 Become a Teacher Event, Crowne Plaza, Little Rock 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Friday, October 5, 2018 Literacy Round-Table: Part 3, UCA 10:00 am – 3:00 pm