

## **Educator Preparation News from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) December 18, 2019**

### **Licensure Assessment Changes**

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

### **Praxis –Test Changes**

<b>Licensure Content Area</b>	<b>Current Version Praxis</b>	<b>New Version Praxis</b>	<b>New Cut Score</b>	<b>State Review Date</b>	<b>Arkansas Launch Date</b>
Geometry	None	5163	TBD	Spring 2020	TBD
Reading Specialist	5301	5302	TBD	Spring 2020	TBD
Middle School Science	5440	5442	TBD	Spring 2020	TBD
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 are available to test takers as of September 2019. The [Arkansas Test Requirements](#) web page has been updated.

discovered recently and there is a fix scheduled to be put in place on January 4, 2020.

### **ETS Data Manager Issue With New Tests Added September 1, 2019**

ETS is reporting an issue with the Data Manager affecting all new test titles introduced in September 2019 – New Core (5713, 5723, 5733), Elem Ed CKT (7811 series), School Superintendent Assessment (6991), Teaching Reading Elem and K12 (5205, 5206) and Geometry (5163). Quick Reports are not working. A fix is scheduled for January 4, 2020. In the meantime, EPPs may email [PEPDataManager@ets.org](mailto:PEPDataManager@ets.org) for assistance with these reports prior to the fix on January 4.

### **Online Educator Endorsement Assessment**

The DESE and Team Digital hosted a test preview of a new Online Educator endorsement assessment. A pilot is planned for spring 2020, early adopter roll out in fall 2020, and full assessment implementation in spring 2021.

Team Digital is developing the assessment based on International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL, now Aurora Institute) Online Teacher Competencies and will use the MOODLE platform for test implementation and management.

## **Commissioner's Memos**

The DESE issues regulatory guidance and informational notifications to school districts in the form of Commissioner's Memos. These memos are posted [online](#) on the DESE 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-20-001 Revised Arkansas Qualified Teacher Designation Form</a>
<a href="#">LIC-20-003 School Superintendent Assessment (6991) for District Level Licensure</a>
<a href="#">LIC-20-004 2019-2020 Assessment Fee Reimbursements for Educators Adding Chronically Critical Academic Shortage Areas</a>
<a href="#">LS-20-001 Chasing the Dragon</a>
<a href="#">LIC 20-005 National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) funding Authority: Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-413</a>
<a href="#">COM-20-015 Minority Teacher and Administrator Recruitment</a>
<a href="#">LIC-20-007 DESE TESS Talk Tuesday 2019-2020</a>
<a href="#">LIC-20-010 National Board Certified Teacher 2019-2020 Profile Information</a>
<a href="#">LIC-20-011 LEADS 2.0: Virtual Sessions</a>
<a href="#">LIC-20-012 Impacting Tomorrow Summit and Educators Rising Membership</a>
<a href="#">LIC-20-039 Special Education Programs: Vision/Hearing Specialist Stipends, 2019-2020</a>
<a href="#">LIC-20-016 Critical Reading I &amp; II Approved Licensure Codes Added</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 collaborated with Educational Service Cooperatives, Leadership Preparation Programs, and Arkansas Educational Renewal Zones to host trainings across the state. The three (3) hour training sessions covered the LEADS 2.0 Principal Rubric. Rubrics for Assistant Principals and Curriculum Program Administrators will be rolled out later. Virtual follow-ups are now scheduled.

## **Pedagogical Competence**

Act 540 of 2019 removed all references to a requirement for a pedagogical assessment for licensure from State law. Programs are now required to ensure a candidate will demonstrate pedagogical competence through the method identified by the EPP in order to be considered an educator preparation program completer and recommended for licensure. Currently all programs are approved for a Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) assessment as their method for demonstrating pedagogical competence.

Therefore, the DESE 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 part of program requirements and EPPs must be able to document successful completion by candidates who they identify as program completers.

### **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.

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. DESE has also provided EPPs with proficiency level training and resources aligned with the knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction. EPP representatives had the 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.

All EPPs offering K-6 and/or SpEd K-12 licensure programs submitted program proposals on time and all have been reviewed. Currently, fifteen of those programs have received approval for one or all of their Phase I Pathways to Proficiency. All of these courses/modules can be found under Pathway Q on the [DESE Prescribed Pathway Credentials](#) webpage. Ed Prep and Learning Services will continue to work to support EPPs to complete the approval process.

### **Educational Leadership Programs**

All programs licensing in Building Administrator P-12(Principal) must submit a [Program Proposal for a New Educator Licensure Endorsement Program](#) or [Major Revision\(s\) to Approved Licensure Program](#) no later than February 1, 2020 in order for the program to maintain State approval. A five-member review panel for principal P-12 programs will begin working on proposal review as programs are submitted.

District Administrator P-12 - Superintendent competencies have been revised and are available on the competencies [website](#). The DESE is currently working to revise the competencies for two CPA areas- Curriculum Administrator P-12 and Gifted and Talented Administrator P-12 with a Summer 2020 date to be finalized. [Special Education Administrator P-12](#) competencies are finalized and available on the website. Program proposals for revisions for these areas are due no later than February 1, 2021.

### **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.

### **Special Education Resource Licensure Route for Teachers Alternative Preparation Programs**

At the December State Board Meeting, a [proposal](#) was approved for a pilot to allow teachers enrolled in an alternative preparation licensure program to add Special Education Resource as a second area on their provisional license after meeting requirements. The requirements are:

- Enrollment in an Arkansas approved alternative preparation program
- Completion of all requirements for provisional license
- Successful completion of an approved Special Education 101 course
- Passing scores on the Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354)

To convert the area on the provisional license to the standard license will require completion of the remaining courses in the approved program of study.

### **2020 Impacting Tomorrow Summit**

The 2020 Impacting Tomorrow Summit will be held on Friday, February 21 at UCA. This FREE event is open to all high school students interested in a career in education and will be a day to promote the teaching profession while also allowing students to participate in competitions sponsored by [Educators Rising](#). **First place winners and their teacher leader will receive funding to attend the Educators Rising National Conference in Washington DC in June.** More information about Educators Rising and the competitions offered at the Summit can be found at [http://bit.ly/Ed\\_RisingAR](http://bit.ly/Ed_RisingAR) or by contacting Sharlee Crowson (501) 683-6349 [sharlee.crowson@arkansas.gov](mailto:sharlee.crowson@arkansas.gov)

The Impacting Tomorrow Summit includes a college fair that will be from 9:45am-2:15pm in UCA's Student Center. If your IHE is interested in promoting your college of education to potential teachers, please complete this [registration form](#).

There are opportunities for education majors and college students interested in [Educators Rising Collegiate](#) to be involved in the Summit. If you would like to learn more about how your students could take part in this day, please reach out to Sharlee Crowson (contact information above).

### **Grant to Improve Literacy**

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Arkansas a five-year grant totaling \$38 million to improve literacy in the state. The state received the maximum amount allowed under the grant. The grant will be used to implement the Arkansas Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program. A critical component of the program is creating a network of support for districts by leveraging the roles of higher education institutions to support the Science of Reading implementation at the school level. The [Press Release](#) contains more information about the grant. More information about the federal grant, including Arkansas's program narrative, is available on the [U.S. Department of Education's website](#).

### **Spring Licensure Test Reviews: Dates and locations to be announced**

The DESE and Educational Testing Service facilitate test reviews for EPPs prior to test adoption by the State Board of Education. The purpose is to give licensure programs an early preview of the test to begin planning for program changes if necessary. The following will be reviewed in the spring semester:

- Reading tests
- Geometry Test
- Reading Specialist
- Test for Early Childhood Special Education Integrated B-K
- Middle School Science

### **Future Test Changes (from ETS mid-year update)**

American Sign Language (2020)	5635
Career Technology Education: Health Occupations (2022)	5052
Career Technology Education: Trade and Industrial Education (2022)	5053
Japanese: World Language (2021)	5661
Journalism (2021)	5224
Library Media Specialist (2021)	5312
Music: Instrumental and General Knowledge (2021)	5115
Music: Vocal and General Knowledge (2021)	5116
Principles of Learning and Teaching (K-12) (2021)	5625
Russian: World Language (2022)	5671
School Counselor (2021)	5422
Virtual Instruction (2022)	5054

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

As part of the [DESE's Teach Arkansas Campaign](#), the DESE reimburses assessment fees for teachers adding a chronically critical shortage area to their current Arkansas license after September 1, 2018. This funding is not applicable to first-time licenses nor for endorsements added before the date above. 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.

### **Arkansas Future Grant (ArFuture)**

Associate of Science in Education degrees have now been added to the list of [qualifying degree programs](#) for the Arkansas Future Grant (ArFuture) as a regional high demand area of study. The grant is provided through the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) and will cover tuition and fees at Arkansas' public institutions for eligible students. The grant is available on a first come,

first serve basis. After candidates complete the AS in Education, they will then be eligible to transfer to a four-year IHE to complete their Bachelor's degree and educator licensure program. More information on ArFuture can be found by visiting the [information page](#) on ADHE's website.

### **Transitions**

Dr. Machell Dailey ([Machell.Dailey@arkansas.gov](mailto:Machell.Dailey@arkansas.gov)) is a new program advisor for the Educator Preparation Unit. She started October 7, 2019. Dr. Dailey's initial work will focus on continuing the efforts to revise all programs to meet the requirements for the Science of Reading legislation.

Dr. Nita Bohannon ( [Nita.Bohannon@arkansas.gov](mailto:Nita.Bohannon@arkansas.gov)) is a new program advisor for the Educator Preparation Unit. She started November 18, 2019. Dr. Bohannon's initial work will focus on 2020 Leadership Preparation Program Redesign including program revisions and competency development.

Dr. Suzanne Bailey will be retiring as the Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure. We wish her well.

Ms. Karli Saracini will be joining the division as Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure. She will start on January 6, 2020. Ms. Saracini is currently the Assistant Superintendent of North Little Rock Schools and is a former Director of Licensure for the Arkansas Department of Education.

### **Social Media**

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

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

Twitter Accounts:

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