

**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	N/A	9/1/2019
School Superintendent Assessment (SSA)	6021	6991	TBD	TBD	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 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 September newsletter include:

<a href="#">LS-19-029 ADE Data Center Portal Revamp and Re-launch</a>
<a href="#">LS-19-043 ACT NO LIMITS campaign</a>
<a href="#">COM-19-055 Computer Science Licensure Assessment Reimbursement Application - Updated for 2018-2019 School Year</a>
<a href="#">COM-19-054 Computer Science High School Teacher Endorsement and Instruction Stipend Program Continued for 2018-2019 School Year</a>
<a href="#">COM-19-060 K-8 Computer Science Lead Teacher Stipend and Training Program Continued and Expanded for 2018</a>
<a href="#">LS-19-037 Science of Reading: Update to Prescribed Pathway Models</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-012 TESS/LEADS Orientation and Observer Calibration Training for Administrators Hired at Semester</a>
<a href="#">LIC-19-013 Background Check Fee Increase Effective 1/1/2019</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.

### **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 will soon have the opportunity to request reconsideration of the conversion. This opportunity will be 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 will be made available on the [Federal Student Aid –Teach Grant](#) website by January 31, 2019.

### **Right to Read Act and Licensure Rule Information**

We have received several inquiries regarding future licensure requirements to meet the Right to Read Act. For the renewal of a license expiring in 2021 and thereafter:  
All teachers employed in a teaching position that requires an elementary education (K-6) license or special education (K-12) license shall demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction. All other licensed educators, regardless of employment, shall demonstrate awareness in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction. The Prescribed Pathways for the Proficiency and Awareness levels can be found at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/r.i.s.e.-arkansas/prescribed-pathway-credentials>

### **Foundations of Reading Program Alignment**

In order to continue offering licensure in Elementary Education K-6 and/or Special Education K-12, educator preparation programs must submit evidence of alignment to the [Foundations of Reading Competencies-Proficiency Level](#) by February 28, 2019. Evidence of alignment may include syllabi/module descriptions and objectives, assessments used that align with the competencies, materials/resources used that align with the competencies, a course outline/calendar showing estimated timeframe of instruction on the competencies, etc. Please submit evidence by February 28, 2019, to Sharlee Crowson ([Sharlee.crowson@arkansas.gov](mailto:Sharlee.crowson@arkansas.gov)).

Any program not approved under the new competencies by August 2019 will be removed from the matrix of approved programs.

### **2020 Educational Leadership Program Redesign**

In order to continue offering licensure in Building Administrator P-12 or District Administrator P-12, educator preparation programs must submit a [Program Proposal Guide for a New Endorsement Program](#) by February 1, 2020. These are considered new endorsement programs because of the extensive changes to requirements and competencies. Please submit proposals to Sharlee Crowson ([Sharlee.crowson@arkansas.gov](mailto:Sharlee.crowson@arkansas.gov)).

### **Family and Community Engagement Toolkit**

The Family and Community Engagement Coalition, comprised of numerous stakeholders from across the state, developed a Family and Community Engagement Framework and Toolkit format. The Department has released draft documents for review. Copies of the proposed Family and Community Engagement Framework Essentials/Key Elements and a sample page of the developing Toolkit are attached to [COM-19-072](#). Please send all comments concerning the proposed framework essentials/key elements and developing toolkit to [ade.engagementmatters@arkansas.gov](mailto:ade.engagementmatters@arkansas.gov) by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 11, 2019.

Ed prep programs that wish to include information in the toolkit on any family and community engagement initiatives or opportunities may contact Sharlee Crowson ([sharlee.crowson@arkansas.gov](mailto:sharlee.crowson@arkansas.gov)).

### **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.

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

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 and the list of chronically critical shortage areas is available on the [Licensure Assessment website](#) under Related Files called Licensure Endorsement Test Reimbursement GUIDANCE.

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

The ADE has partnered with Solution Tree for the Professional Communities at Work Project™, which is a statewide 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 included 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](#).

Information about upcoming workshops and events by Solution Tree being held in Arkansas in 2019 is available at <https://www.solutiontree.com/events/l/arkansas.html> .

### **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 of a career in education. 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 Department of Education Summit**

The Arkansas Department of Education will host the 2019 ADE Summit 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