

**Praxis –Test Changes**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Current Version</b>	<b>New Version</b>	<b>New Cut Score</b>	<b>State Review Date</b>	<b>Arkansas Launch Date</b>
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	5361	5362	155	3/9/2016	9/1/2016
Early Childhood (P-4)	5022	5025	156	3/9/2016	9/1/2016
Principles of Learning and Teaching (for first time EC/SpEd Integrated (B-K))	NA	5621	157	NA	9/1/2016
Special Education: Core Knowledge Applications (for SpEd: Resource endorsement)	NA	5354	151	NA	3/10/2016

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

**Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Licensure Areas**

The Master of Arts in teaching (MAT) is a nontraditional licensure program that allows candidates to teach under a provisional license while completing a program of study toward a master’s degree. Changes adopted in May 2016 to the *ADE Policies Governing Educator Preparation Program Approval* allow MAT programs to add Special Education and Elementary Education (K-6) licensure areas.

**Special Education Licensure**

MAT candidates receive a provisional license after completing the ADE’s SpEd 101 Academy, completing an additional three credit hours in special education, and passing the approved content assessment(s). The following institutions have been approved to add the Special Education MAT option starting in summer 2016.

**MAT - Special Education K-12**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Delivery type</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Email</b>
Harding University	90% online	Susan Grogan	sgrogan@harding.edu
Henderson State University	online	Charlotte Wright	MAT@hsu.edu

**MAT – Early Childhood/Special Education Integrated B-K**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Delivery Type</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Email</b>
Harding University	90% online	Susan Grogan	sgrogan@harding.edu
Henderson State University	online	Charlotte Wright	MAT@hsu.edu

### **Elementary Education (K-6) Licensure**

Program proposals are now being accepted to add Elementary Education to MAT programs. Education Preparation Provider (EPPs) can only submit programs of study for Track 1 programs. Track 1 programs require candidates to be employed as a teacher of record with a provisional teaching license for the duration of the program.

### **Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL) Updates**

APPEL is an intensive, two-year training program for college graduates seeking Arkansas teacher licensure. The ADE's APPEL Program provides specialized instruction and a trained mentor who assists with guidance and professional growth for the first two years of teaching employment in an Arkansas school. There are currently 150 year one candidates and 134 year two candidates in the June Cohort. Once the summer instruction is successfully completed, these candidates are eligible for a Provisional License upon hire with a district.

The APPEL program is currently accepting applications for a late cohort. This late cohort is for candidates with a recommendation from a district hiring official. Positions in critical shortage subjects or high need geographic areas are given top priority. The Summer Academy will be held July 11-29 at Hendrix College in Conway. The deadline for all district recommendations is July 8, 2016. Details can be found [here](#).

Questions should be directed to Ann Crosser, [ann.crosser@arkansas.gov](mailto:ann.crosser@arkansas.gov).

### **Policies Governing Educator Preparation Program Approval**

The *Educator Preparation Program Approval Policies* went into effect on May 8, 2016. The current rules are available [here](#). These policies outline the requirements for approval of educator licensure programs offered by a college or university in Arkansas. Highlights of the rule changes include:

- The name of the rule is changed to a shorter name that reflects the statutory basis for the policies.
- Language has been revised throughout the rule to transition from NCATE accreditation terminology to CAEP accreditation terminology.
- Section 4.02 adds "national" accrediting agency, which will allow the institution of higher education to be regionally OR nationally accredited.
- Sections 7.02, 7.03, 7.04, and 7.06 remove the number of semester hours. Instead, program approval will be determined by an analysis of how the program prepares candidates for the competencies expected.
- Previous Sections 8.0 and 10.0 have been removed. These sections were specifically for candidates and are included in the *ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure*. The educator preparation policies focus on educator preparation programs and will be usable as the basis for audit criteria.
- Previous section 9.02 was removed to allow the addition of elementary education (K-6) and special education licensure areas to nontraditional educator licensure programs.

## **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/Educator Preparation since the March newsletter include:

<a href="#">LIC-16-034 Licensure Test for New Special Education: Resource Endorsement</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-036 TESS, LEADS, Mentoring Update 2016-2017</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-037 2016-2017 Critical Academic Shortage Areas</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-039 Beginning Administrator Induction and Mentor Training</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-040 New Teacher Preparation Programs for Special Education Licensure</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-041 Proposed rules for public comment: Rules Governing the Standards of Professional Ethical Conduct for Arkansas Educators (formerly the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators)</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-042 Licensure Test for English as a Second Language First-Time License</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-043 Licensure Test for Early Childhood (P-4) First-Time License</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-044 Final Rules: Policies Governing Educator Preparation Program Approval</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-045 Computer Science Licensure Assessment Reimbursement Application (Updated)</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-046 Emergency and Proposed Rules Governing Arkansas Qualified Teacher Requirements</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-047 Public Comment Period Extended - Rules Governing Standards for Professional Ethical Conduct</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-048 Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL) Program Late Summer Academy 2016</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-049 Live-Scan Fingerprinting As Of July 1, 2016</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-050 Educator Preparation Providers Reports</a>

## **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 education happenings in Arkansas.

## **TESS Training for IHEs**

The ADE hosted a two-day training for all Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) with EPPs to receive current information on the Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS). 50 EPP faculty attended the training that was facilitated by Dr. Diann Gathright. Topics included Framework for Teaching, TESS Law and Process, Observing Teaching, and Collecting Evidence. The Educator Preparation Section is working to create a set of competencies that can be used by all EPPs.

## **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 first be submitted to [lillian.williams@adhe.edu](mailto: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 program proposals can be found [here](#). Proposals to revise programs and all proposals from independent IHEs should be sent directly to [Heather.Newsam@arkansas.gov](mailto:Heather.Newsam@arkansas.gov) at the ADE. Information and forms for proposals to be submitted directly to the ADE can be found [here](#).

### **Educator Competencies**

Starting this summer, we will be convening committees to revise the Math (grades K-6); Math, grades (4-8); and Math (grades 7-12) competencies. Math revisions are necessary due to the implementation of the new K-12 Arkansas Mathematics Standards. Implementation of these new standards may begin as early as the 2016-2017 school year and are expected to be fully implemented in the 2017-2018 school year. The K-12 Arkansas English Language Arts Standards are currently in development, and we will revise the ELA competencies for all levels once these are complete. We will also work with the Arkansas Department of Career Education to revise the Adult Education, P-S competencies.

### **Welcome**

We would like to welcome Ms. Cheryl Reinhart as the new Director of Licensure at the ADE. Her email is [Cheryl.Reinhart@arkansas.gov](mailto:Cheryl.Reinhart@arkansas.gov).

We would like to welcome Ms. Kami Sharp as the new administrative assistant for the Educator Preparation Section. Her email is [Kami.Sharp@arkansas.gov](mailto:Kami.Sharp@arkansas.gov).