

Educator Preparation News from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

June 15, 2020

Licensure Assessment Changes

Information on assessments for licensure is available on the [DESE'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
Geometry	None	5163	139	Spring 2020	Sum 2020*
Middle School Science	5440	5442	147	2/11/2020	9/1/2020
Early Childhood Special Ed Integrated (B-K)	5023	5023	160	Spring 2020	Sum 2020*
School Superintendent Assessment (SSA)	6021	6991	157	4/17/2019	9/1/2020
Reading Specialist	5301	5302	TBD	Fall 2020	9/01/2021
Science of Reading Stand-Alone Test	NA	NA	TBD	Fall 2020	9/1/2021

* Once Licensure Rules revisions are finalized and approved, the test will be active and the test available.

Pending Licensure Assessment Changes

Early Childhood Special Education Integrated B-K

Since September 2014, the licensure tests for Early Childhood Special Education Integrated (Birth-K) have been the Praxis® Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (5023) and the Praxis® Education of Young Children (5024). Educational Testing Service facilitated a state test review of the two licensure tests on February 10, 2020, in Little Rock. The focus of the review was to provide Arkansas practitioners an opportunity for feedback on reducing the B-K licensure test requirement from two tests to one. Through discussion, the group's consensus was to require only one licensure test for the B-K license, the Praxis® Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (5023). Pending final approval of Educator Licensure Rules, effective July 1, 2020, for the Early Childhood Special Education Integrated (B-K) license, the State Board approved requiring one licensure test instead of two: remove the Praxis® Education of Young Children (5024) but continue the Praxis® Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (5023) test with current cut score of 160.

Content Area Performance Assessment

In May 2020, Educator Licensure rules were revised to include an option for first-time licensure candidates to show proficiency in teaching in a content area if they score within -2 Standard Error

of Measurement (SEM) based on the national standard or an approved score by the State Board on the content area assessment. The option includes the need for a DESE approved micro-credential or content area performance assessment. To provide an option for applicable candidates to show proficiency in teaching in a content area, the State Board approved adopting the Praxis® Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) with a cut score of 38 as a content area performance assessment.

Licensure Rules Approval

The [2020 Educator Licensure Rules](#) were approved by the State Board at the May meeting. The final step in the promulgation process is the review of the rules by the Administrative Rules Subcommittee at its [June 17, 2020 meeting](#).

Online Educator Endorsement Assessment

The DESE and Team Digital hosted a test preview of a new Online Educator endorsement assessment. A test run of the assessment is planned for 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 December 2019 newsletter include:

LS-20-069 Course Code Management Changes 2020-2021
LIC-20-024 Special Education Resource Licensure for Alternative Preparation Programs
COM-20-097 Computer Science - Changes to Computer Science Educator Stipend Programs
COM-20-099 K-8 Computer Science Lead Teacher Bonus Program
COM-20-100 Computer Science-Advanced High School Computer Science Professional Development Bonus Programs
COM-20-098 Computer Science-High School Computer Science Bonus Program
LIC-20-036 Background Check Guidance for Covid-19
LIC-20-038 Employees Hiring and Licensure Exceptions for the 2020-2021 School Year
COM-20-115 Computer Science Approval Codes and Technical Permits Extended
LIC-20-042 Making Ethical and Professional Decisions Daily Presentation

LIC-20-053 Educator Licensure Testing Options
LIC-20-044 Novice Teacher Mentoring and Registry
RT-20-010 ADE Summit 2020
LIC-20-048 Covid-19 Teacher Hotline
COM-20-122 Arkansas Ready for Learning Webinar: Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year - RECORDED WEBINAR
LS-20-107 Pre-AP and AP Training
LS-20-113 Ready for Learning Assessment Options
COM-20-126 Arkansas Playbook Webinar
LS-20-089 Guidance for School Regarding COVID-19

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.

ADE Summit 2020 June 16 - 18

The [ADE Summit](#) starts tomorrow. The conference will be all virtual and is now free to all participants but registration is required.

From the Summit Conference Team

Here is some quick info that will help you get the most out of the ADE Summit:

- To access Zoom links, visit the session descriptions in Sched.
- Some sessions are pre-recorded and can be watched at any time. To view the list of pre-recorded sessions, [CLICK HERE](#).
- Participation in sessions is on a first-come basis. Your selection in advance does not guarantee access to the session.
- As a courtesy to our presenters, please do not join the meeting more than 5 minutes prior to the session start time.
- Providing professional development credit remains up to district discretion. No certificates will be provided by the ADE. However, Sched does offer the ability to print an individual's schedule.
- The online schedule and conference resources will remain available in Sched even after the event is over.

We hope you will join us for the opening session Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. If you have any questions or need additional assistance, contact the conference support team at ade.summit@arkansas.gov.

Science of Reading (SOR) Pathway Reviews

All programs must submit their method for meeting this Awareness Level pathway requirement by July 1, 2020. It is not necessary to submit a program proposal packet unless changes meet the criteria for a major/minor revision. I have posted the tracker for SOR in a [google folder](#). You will be able to see the pathways for all EPPs. Click the tabs at the bottom. Green indicates approved and grey indicates no documentation. This will be published on the RISE site after July 1 to replace the documents for Pathway Q to proficiency and Option 2 Pathway to awareness.

English Language Arts 4-8 and 7-12 have SOR included in the competencies. We will need course syllabi and new matrix for those two areas.

Library Media Specialist

The library media specialist panel convened on June 12, 2020. At that time an acceptable draft was completed. The draft is going through the last stages to clean up appearances, and will be finalized no later than June 19, 2020.

Program Proposals to revise Library Media Specialist need to submit by February 2021 for fall 2021 implementation. For programs starting in spring 2022, submissions need to be received no later than July 2021.

Educational Leadership Programs

Principal Preparation Programs have been submitted and Educator Prep is completing the review and approval of those programs.

Superintendent (P-12) competencies are available on the competencies [website](#). The DESE is currently working to revise the competencies for 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 for fall 2021 implementation are due no later than February 1, 2021. The last date to submit for spring 2022 implementation is July 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.

Reading Specialist and Dyslexia Endorsement Programs

The Reading Specialist competencies have been updated and are now currently on the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's [website](#). We will begin taking submissions in February 2021 with a deadline for submission in February 2022.

The Dyslexia Endorsement competencies were drafted by a panel in June 2020. The final copy will be completed this week and posted on the website. That program will be on the same timeline as the Reading Specialist.

LETRs Training for Educator Preparation Programs

Last summer, DESE purchased vouchers for one faculty at each EPP to get training in the Science of Reading with the LETRs program. Due to Covid-19 Voyager Sopris Learning has extended the purchased vouchers for another 30 days

- 9 of 23 participants started on 7/1/2019 and will end on 6/30/2020 (now 7/30/2020)
- 14 of 23 participants started on 9/1/2019 and will end on 8/31/2020 (now 9/30/2020)

I have sent updates to those on the roster to let them know of the deadline extension and remind them to complete the training.

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.

Chronically critical shortage areas are defined as those content areas that are declared critical shortage areas for four (4) of the last five (5) years. The [2020-2021 critical shortage areas](#) were approved recently by the State Board. Library Media Specialist will be removed from the chronically critical shortage list beginning September 1, 2020, so test reimbursement for the Praxis LMS (5311) will not be paid for tests taken after this date. French will be added to the list beginning September 1, 2020, so test reimbursement for the Praxis French (5174) will be paid for tests taken after this date.

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