

Licensure Assessment Changes

Changes have been made to the [ADE’s Licensure Assessments webpage](#) to incorporate the recent changes to licensure assessments. Be sure to update your shortcuts with the new URL.

Praxis –Test Changes

Subject	Current Version	New Version	New Cut Score	State Review Date	Arkansas Launch Date
Computer Science	5651	TBD	TBD	4/26/2018	9/1/2018
School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA)	6011	TBD	TBD	4/25/2018	9/1/2019

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 related to Licensure/Educator Preparation since the December newsletter include:

LS-18-062 Secondary Science Course Guidance (2018-2019)
COM-18-053 Understanding the Growth Indicator in the Arkansas ESSA Plan Webinar
LIC-18-023 Disciplinary Literacy Program of Study through ArkansasIDEAS
LS-18-072 19th Annual Alternative Education Conference, "Mirror Mirror On The Wall: There's a Leader In Us All"
LIC-18-026 Webinar: Act 295 Revisions to Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS) and Leader Excellence and Development System (LEADS)
LIC-18-027 National Board Informational Document
LIC-18-029 Changes to Rules Governing Educator Licensure; Emergency Repeal of Policies Governing Educator Preparation Program Approval
LS-18-078 Course Code Management System Changes and Updated Smart Core Forms
ADE Data Conference 2018
LS-18-079 Special Education Training for ALP Teachers and Long Term Substitutes with Special Education Teaching Assignments
LIC-18-028 New Online Licensure Applications & Renewal Instructions for 2018
LIC-18-030 National Board Regional Orientations and Registration

Fill You in Fridays

[Fill You in Friday](#) has replaced the monthly *Key Points* video. It 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.

Arkansas' ESSA Plan: What Teacher Education Programs Need to Know

A panel from the Arkansas Department of Education will be on the campus of Arkansas State University on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, to present information on Arkansas' approved ESSA. The focus of the discussion will be on how ESSA applies to Educator Preparation Programs. It will start with a complimentary luncheon at 11:30 and the presentation will begin at 12:30. [Registration](#) ends on April 4th. Anyone involved with Educator Preparation is invited to attend. Detailed information is available in the registration link.

UAPTC Teaching in STEM Summit

On Friday, April 27, 2018, the University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech will be hosting a summit that will focus on increasing and retaining African-American interested in becoming STEM teachers. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, President at The University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Onsite registration and breakfast will begin at 8am. Sessions will be available with a student track and a faculty and staff track. For more information and to register early, visit [UAPTC-TEACHING-IN-STEM](#).

Online Applications for Licensure

Be sure to check out [Commissioner Memo LIC-18-028](#) for important information regarding licensure applications. Effective April 1, 2018, all applications must be submitted online. This includes applications from educator preparation programs. Specific information for IHE licensure officers will be shared during a session at the April 5 ArACTE conference. A webinar will be scheduled in mid-April for the Alternative Provider licensure officers.

Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and Elementary Education

In summer 2016, the ADE began accepting proposals for MAT programs to add Elementary Education (K-6) as an option. At that time, only candidates employed as a teacher of record in a K-6 setting were allowed into the MAT programs. As a need for licensed teachers across the state continues, K-6 MAT programs now have the option for candidates to complete supervised clinical practice as a culminating experience of the program before licensure. It is important to communicate with candidates about marketability when choosing a licensure area.

Middle Childhood Content Competencies

[Educator Competencies](#) for all four middle childhood content areas (English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) have been updated to reflect changes in program requirements and national standards. A revision submission timeline will be developed in spring 2019. In the meantime, providers can begin aligning programs to the updated competencies and are welcome to submit program revisions immediately. Any program revisions submitted for 4-8 programs should include the revised competencies.

Licensure Rules and New Licensure Areas

The [Rules Governing Educator Licensure](#) went into effect on March 7, 2018.

Dyslexia and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) are now areas for ancillary licensure. ADE is currently developing the guidelines for these two areas. Other new areas include Alternative Learning (K-12) and Online Teaching (K-12) as exception area endorsements. These endorsements will be available by program of study only. Dance (K-12) was also added as a first-time licensure and endorsement area. ADE will convene working groups to develop content competencies for these areas and review assessment options. Current licensure rules allow the State Board to approve an alternative method of demonstrating subject matter content competency when a licensure content area assessment is not available for a specific licensure area.

Several changes to the Rules Governing Educator Licensure could affect educator preparation programs and current candidates. ADE has created Google Forms for [alternative preparation programs](#) and [traditional preparation programs](#) to give guidance on the changes and provide an opportunity to amend approved programs to accommodate the changes. Please submit forms by **April 13, 2018**. Submit as many forms as necessary to cover all educator preparation programs provided.

TESS Competencies

In accordance with Acts 295 and 930 of 2017, the [ADE Rules Governing Educator Support and Development](#) were developed and approved by the State Board on Oct 12, 2017. These rules were effective December 1, 2017.

Therefore, the Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS) competencies have been updated to reflect the changes referenced above.

The revised [TESS competencies](#) and the corresponding alignment [matrix](#) can be found on the [ADE Resources for Educator Preparation Program Approval](#) webpage. ADE will not require educator

preparation programs to submit new alignment matrices immediately. However, if a new program proposal is submitted, please align to the new TESS competencies.

The ADE has scheduled a webinar for designated TESS coordinators with Educator Preparation Providers on Wednesday April 11, 2018. All others are encouraged to attend one of the general webinars listed in [Commissioner Memo LIC-18-026](#).

Alternative Prep Programs and Ethics Training

Alternative educator preparation program candidates for the 2018-2019 school year are now required to provide documentation of successful completion of ADE approved professional educator ethics training when applying for a Provisional License. The change is a result of [Act 294 of 2017](#) and has been incorporated into the *2018 Educator Licensure Rules*. Guidance for ethics training program proposals was sent out in January. Please see the overview of the ethics training requirements below. Alternative educator preparation programs should submit program proposals for professional ethics training no later than **June 1, 2018**, to ensure training is approved for those applying for provisional license for the 2018-2019 school year. More information is available on the [Ethics Video and Training Page](#).

Part I – Options for General Ethics Training

- [ProEthica®](#) was approved by the PLSB as an option to meet the Part I requirement
- A current module/course can be submitted for approval
- A new module/course can be created and submitted for approval

Part II – Options for Arkansas Specific Ethics Training

- Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators training on ArkansasIDEAS: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) - The Code of Ethics Training Video (2017), Course No. ERC18064
- PLSB Facilitated training on the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators

AND

- Submit the Ethics Training Verification Form for Alternative Educator Preparation Candidates signifying candidate has read and understands the [ADE Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators](#)

Please contact Joan Luneau (501) 683- 6618 or Sharlee Crowson (501)-683-1524 with any questions.

Upcoming Events

April 5-6 Arkansas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (ArACTE) [conference](#) hosted by UCA

April 18 *Arkansas' ESSA Plan: What Teacher Education Programs Need to Know* hosted by Arkansas State ERZ office ([Eventbrite registration link](#))

April 24 Office for Education Policy (OEP) Conference. The focus will be Arkansas' Teacher Pipeline. Information and a link to registering is available on the [OEP blog](#).

April 25 School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) State Standard Setting

April 26 Computer Science Assessment State Standard Setting

April 27 [Teaching in STEM Summit](#) hosted by UA Pulaski Tech