

**Educator Preparation News from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
September 1, 2021**

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
Reading Specialist	5301	5302	160	Fall 2020	9/01/2021
Science of Reading Stand-Alone Test	Pearson 090	Pearson 190	233	Spring 2021	8/23/2021
Japanese	NA	5661	151	NA	7/8/2021
Journalism	NA	5224	147	NA	7/8/2021
Instrumental Music (K-12) Assessment	NA	5115	145	NA	9/01/2021
Vocal Music (K-12) Assessment	NA	5116	147	NA	9/01/2021

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 2021 newsletter include:

COM-21-105 Computer Science Education Advancement Act of 2021 – Act 414 of the 93rd General Assembly
COM-21-123 Cohort 5 Professional Learning Communities Announcement
LS-21-068 Dyslexia Guidance for Special Education: 2021
LS-22-003 Pre-K R.I.S.E. Initiative
LIC-22-001 Licensure (Licensure Assessment Updates)
LIC-22-002 Foundations of Reading Test Updated for 2021
COM-22-031 Professional Learning Communities for Higher Education Faculty and Administration
COM-22-032 Summer 2022 Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Academy Request for Proposal for Public University Partners
COM-22-006 Licensure Assessment Tutoring

Special Education Resource Academies

Special Education Resource Teacher Academies were started in summer 2021 to provide current licensed public school educators in grades K-12 the opportunity to earn an additional Special Education Resource endorsement and participate in job-embedded professional development while receiving graduate school credit hours - at no cost to them.

The endorsement allows a teacher to provide special education services within the general education classroom, as supplementary supports, or in special education classrooms. This expands a district's ability to consider and offer a variety of special education service delivery models. With the growing emphasis on inclusive practices, this opportunity will assist in providing Arkansas school districts with the skilled staff needed to lead the nation in student focused "inclusive" education. Below are the numbers of teachers in Arkansas that currently have one of the Special Education Resource endorsements:

Special Education Resource Elementary K-6	59 teachers
Special Education Resource ELA 7-12	20 teachers
Special Education Resource Math 7-12	13 teachers

All of the programs include 12-15 hours of graduate coursework delivered both synchronously and asynchronously, can be completed in one year, and are available at no cost for teachers.

There are currently 189 teachers enrolled at three (3) universities: Harding University, Henderson State University, and John Brown University.

Online Teacher Academies

Online Teacher Academies were started in summer 2021 as a way to provide current educators an in-depth understanding of digital instruction to their students, knowledge and tools to be a teacher leader for online teaching within their own district, and knowledge to pass the Online Teaching Performance Assessment and earn an Online Teaching K-12 Endorsement. There are currently six (6) teachers in Arkansas with the endorsement.

All of the programs include fifteen (15) hours of graduate coursework delivered both synchronously and asynchronously, can be completed in one year, and are available at no cost for teachers.

There are currently 186 teachers enrolled at six (6) universities: Arkansas Tech University, Henderson State University, John Brown University, University of Central Arkansas, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

State Board of Education Information

Information regarding the State Board of Education can be found at [About State Board Site](#). 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.

Foundations of Reading (FoR) Test

Effective August 23, 2021, the current version of the FoR test (SA090) was replaced by a redeveloped version that was administered beginning August 23, 2021. The redeveloped version is administered under a new test code (SA190). A study guide for the Foundations of Reading Test (SA190) is available on the [Arkansas FoR test resources page](#). A full practice test is available on the [FoR \(SA190\) page](#).

Beginning in November 2021, the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson will begin online proctored exam delivery. This will give Foundations of Reading (SA190) test takers the option to test from home in addition to

testing at an on-site testing center. There will be no additional cost to the candidate that chooses this platform. There will be specific requirements for the candidate to meet and these will be available on the test scheduling webpage soon. Registration for at home testing will be available in October.

Licensure Assessment Ready

The Division of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure is sponsoring Praxis tutoring sessions for the following low pass rate and/or high volume tests:

Art: Content Knowledge (5134)
Chemistry: Content Knowledge (5245)
Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Social Studies (5004)
Elementary: Multiple Subjects Science (5005)
Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161)
Middle School English Language Arts (5047)
Middle School Mathematics (5169)
Middle School Science (5442)
Middle School Social Studies (5089)
Physics: Content Knowledge (5265)
Social Studies: Content and Interpretation (5086)

All sessions are free, virtual, and facilitated by currently licensed Arkansas practitioners. Tutoring sessions consist of content specific tutoring combined with practice questions designed to improve test taker confidence and performance.

The free tutoring sessions are for the following test takers:

1. Individuals enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs leading to licensure
2. Individuals who have not achieved a passing score on one of the identified licensure exams
3. Individuals on Additional Licensure Plans
4. Individuals currently licensed and desiring to add an area by testing out

Session registration can be accessed [HERE](#). The most current information can be found on the [Licensure Assessment Ready website](#).



Also from the Licensure Assessment Ready web page is Foundations of Reading (SA190) tutoring. Sessions are currently under development, and registration will be available this fall.

Ethics Training for Alternative Preparation Programs

ProEthica has been used by many providers as part of their program to meet the requirement that all alternative preparation candidates must complete an approved ethics training prior to receiving a provisional license. ProEthica was discontinued in summer 2021 and is no longer available. Alternative preparation

candidates will complete training on Arkansas IDEAS and must submit the [Ethics Training Verification Form](#) to their licensure officer prior to receiving a provisional license.

Higher Program Revisions for 2021-2022

[Arkansas competencies](#) for many licensure areas have been updated in response to changes to national standards and licensure assessments. This drives the need to update programs. We have created a [Program Revisions Deadlines chart](#) to show what is needed for 2020-2021.

Personnel Changes in the Educator Preparation Unit

Rose Smith is no longer with our unit. She has taken a position with the Pine Bluff School District. We wish her best as she continues to work to improve education for the children of Arkansas. We hope to have her replacement in place within the next month.

Ann Crosser has transferred to the Education Program unit as a program advisor for educator competencies and program approvals. Ann is an 18-year ADE/DESE veteran, most recently as the APPEL program advisor.

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