



Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

To: State Board of Education

From: Risa Regnier, IDOE

Re: Final approval of CORE licensure assessments and cut scores

Date: July 26, 2013

Background:

Tests for educator licensure have been required by statute since 1985 and Educational Testing Service (ETS) has been Indiana's sole vendor for state licensure assessments since that time. The current ETS suite of content tests, called Praxis II, are national tests (not customized to Indiana's educator content standards).

In 2011, Pearson Evaluation Systems was selected through an RFP process as the incoming vendor for Indiana's educator license assessments. Since August 2011, Pearson has been developing content and pedagogy assessments aligned to Indiana's educator standards that were adopted in December 2010.

State Board responsibility: The state board of education is responsible for approval of licensure examinations and cut scores under 515 IAC 8-2-2:

515 IAC 8-2-2 Minimum acceptable scores

Authority: IC 20-28-2-6; IC 20-28-5-12

Affected: IC 4-22-7-7; IC 20-28-5-3

Sec. 2. (a) The board shall approve examinations and determine minimum acceptable scores for:

- (1) examinations required for an applicant to demonstrate proficiency in a content area as described in 515 IAC 8-1-8 through 515 IAC 8-1-44;
- (2) school leaders' licensure assessments;
- (3) examinations required for an applicant to demonstrate proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics*; and
- (4) examinations required for an applicant to demonstrate proficiency in pedagogy.

(b) Prior to taking final action to approve examinations and determine minimum acceptable scores, the board shall do the following:

- (1) Provide public notice of the proposed action at least thirty (30) days prior to taking final action. The public notice shall include the following:
 - (A) A summary of each examination the board proposes to approve.
 - (B) The proposed minimum acceptable scores for each examination.
 - (C) The time period in which the board will accept public comments.
- (2) Accept and consider public comment.



Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

(c) In taking final action to approve the examinations and minimum acceptable score, the board shall establish the effective date of the approved examinations and minimum acceptable scores that shall be not sooner than six (6) months after the date of the final action.

(d) An applicant who obtains at least the minimum acceptable score on an examination required under section 1 of this rule during the time the applicant is enrolled in an approved program may use that score even if a different score or a different examination is required at the time of application for the license.

*The state board approved the Pearson CASA basic skills assessments and cut scores in December 2012. Passage of basic skills assessments became a requirement for admission to Indiana teacher preparation programs on July 1, 2011. Between July 1, 2013 and August 31, 2013 we are in a transition period moving from the ETS Praxis I basic skills assessments to the Pearson CASA assessments. As of September 1, only CASA will be available to candidates.

Explanation and supporting documents: In accordance with 515 IAC 8-2-2(b), the state board at its May 2013 meeting preliminarily approved the 61 proposed content and pedagogy tests and the panel recommended cut scores for 59 of those tests so that they could be posted for public comment. Test blueprints for each test and the proposed cut scores, including scores above and below the panel score at + and - 1 and 2 SEMs, were available on our website for review and comment for 31 days. Notice was sent by email to all teacher preparation institutions and a notice was posted on the Educator Licensing webpage to make educators aware of the review and comment opportunity. Four public comments were submitted. Those comments are included in full on the attached spreadsheet. The test blueprints and proposed score information that supported this agenda item in May are also included.

Attached you will also find a four-page chart of all 61 tests, the panel recommended cut scores, and the percentage of scorable test items that a candidate would need to answer correctly to obtain each indicated score. This chart was prepared by Pearson and includes confidential information intended for board member review (the projected passing percentages). You will also find the suggested review timelines for the new licensure exams based on expected examinee volume. Pearson proposes that the cut scores of 13 high volume exams be reviewed 6 months after the tests go operational; for 24 lower volume exams, a review of cut scores is recommended twelve month after the tests are operational. The scores of all exams would be reviewed 24 months after operational testing begins and every 2 years thereafter. At this time, the projected timing for operational testing to begin is February 2014. The IDOE staff concurs with the recommended review timelines.

At the July meeting the board asked for data on passing rates for the licensure tests currently in use (ETS Praxis II tests). Attached is a spreadsheet showing passing rates for 2011-12 and 2012-13 for Indiana program completers and for all licensure candidates who had their scores sent to the IDOE (includes in and out of state candidates).

Board action: The 61 proposed licensure exams and the 59 proposed cut scores must receive final approval. Tests and cut scores cannot be applied to candidates for six months following the date of the board's final approval.



Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

IDOE staff recommends approval of the 61 tests and the 59 panel recommended passing scores, with the understanding that these scores will be reviewed based on actual test taker data on the timeline accepted by the board.

**Indiana CORE Assessments for Educator Licensure
Panel Recommended Passing Scores with SEM Adjustments**

Test Code	Assessment Name	Total Possible Score Points	Standard Error of Measurement (SEM)	Panel-based Passing Score -2.0 SEM	Panel-based Passing Score -1.0 SEM	Panel Recommended Passing Score	Panel-based Passing Score +1.0 SEM	Panel-based Passing Score +2.0 SEM
004	Early Childhood Education	80	4.05	49	53	57	61	65
005	Elementary Education	80	4.28	44	48	52	57	61
006	Secondary Education	80	4.25	45	49	53	57	62
007	P – 12 Education	80	4.36	41	45	50	54	58
008	Business	80	4.15	47	51	55	60	64
009	Career and Technical Education – Agriculture	80	4.24	45	49	53	58	62
010	Career and Technical Education – Business and Information Technology	80	4.18	46	51	55	59	63
011	Career and Technical Education – Family and Consumer Sciences	80	4.18	47	51	55	59	63
012	Career and Technical Education – Marketing	80	4.11	48	52	56	60	64
013	Computer Education ¹	80	--	--	--	--	--	--
014	Early Childhood Generalist Subtest 1: Reading and English Language Arts	40	2.90	23	26	29	31	34
015	Early Childhood Generalist Subtest 2: Mathematics	40	2.89	23	26	29	32	34
016	Early Childhood Generalist Subtest 3: Science, Health, and Physical Education	32	2.60	18	20	23	25	28
017	Early Childhood Generalist Subtest 4: Social Studies and Fine Arts	32	2.63	17	20	23	25	28

¹ Additional standard setting activities will be conducted for this field before a passing score is recommended.

Test Code	Assessment Name	Total Possible Score Points	Standard Error of Measurement (SEM)	Panel-based Passing Score -2.0 SEM	Panel-based Passing Score -1.0 SEM	Panel Recommended Passing Score	Panel-based Passing Score +1.0 SEM	Panel-based Passing Score +2.0 SEM
060	Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 1: Reading and English Language Arts	40	2.82	24	27	29	32	35
061	Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 2: Mathematics	40	2.81	24	27	30	32	35
062	Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 3: Science, Health, and Physical Education	32	2.53	18	21	24	26	29
063	Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 4: Social Studies and Fine Arts	32	2.65	17	20	22	25	27
018	Engineering and Technology Education	80	4.37	41	45	49	54	58
019	English Learners	80	4.09	48	53	57	61	65
020	Middle School English Language Arts	80	3.97	51	55	59	63	67
021	English Language Arts	80	4.21	46	50	54	58	63
022	Exceptional Needs – Blind or Low Vision	80	4.18	46	51	55	59	63
023	Exceptional Needs – Deaf or Hard of Hearing	80	3.98	51	55	59	63	67
024	Exceptional Needs – Intense Intervention	80	4.19	46	50	55	59	63
025	Exceptional Needs – Mild Intervention	80	4.23	45	49	54	58	62
064	Exceptional Needs – Mild Intervention Reading Instruction	32	2.70	16	19	21	24	27
026	Fine Arts – General Music	40	3.07	20	23	26	29	32
027	Fine Arts – Instrumental Music	40	3.07	19	23	26	29	32
028	Fine Arts – Vocal Music	40	2.93	22	25	28	31	34
029	Fine Arts – Theatre Arts	80	4.44	38	42	46	51	55

Test Code	Assessment Name	Total Possible Score Points	Standard Error of Measurement (SEM)	Panel-based Passing Score -2.0 SEM	Panel-based Passing Score -1.0 SEM	Panel Recommended Passing Score	Panel-based Passing Score +1.0 SEM	Panel-based Passing Score +2.0 SEM
030	Fine Arts – Visual Arts	80	4.20	46	50	54	59	63
032	High Ability	80	4.30	43	47	52	56	60
033	Journalism	80	4.26	44	49	53	57	61
034	Middle School Mathematics	80	4.07	49	53	57	61	65
035	Mathematics	80	4.33	42	47	51	55	60
036	Middle School Science	80	4.26	44	49	53	57	62
037	Middle School Social Studies	80	4.47	36	40	45	49	54
038	Reading	80	4.22	45	50	54	58	62
039	School Administrator – Building Level ²	MCQ: 52	3.50	26	30	33	37	40
		CRI: 8	1.00	4	5	6	7	8
040	School Administrator – District Level ²	MCQ: 52	3.57	24	27	31	35	38
		CRI: 8	1.00	4	5	6	7	8
041	School Counselor	80	4.18	46	51	55	59	63
042	School Librarian	80	4.00	50	54	58	62	66
043	Science – Chemistry	80	4.28	44	48	52	57	61
044	Science – Earth/Space Science	80	4.32	43	47	51	56	60
045	Science – Life Science	80	4.28	44	48	52	57	61
046	Science – Physical Science	80	4.09	49	53	57	61	65

² Assessment includes a multiple-choice section and a constructed-response section. Passing Score recommendations are provided for each test section.

Test Code	Assessment Name	Total Possible Score Points	Standard Error of Measurement (SEM)	Panel-based Passing Score -2.0 SEM	Panel-based Passing Score -1.0 SEM	Panel	Panel-based	Panel-based
						Recommended Passing Score	Passing Score +1.0 SEM	Passing Score +2.0 SEM
047	Science – Physics	80	4.34	42	46	50	55	59
048	Social Studies – Economics	56	3.67	27	31	34	38	42
049	Social Studies – Geographical Perspectives	56	3.55	30	34	38	41	45
050	Social Studies – Government and Citizenship	56	3.73	25	29	32	36	40
051	Social Studies – Historical Perspectives	56	3.64	28	32	35	39	43
052	Social Studies – Psychology	56	3.54	31	34	38	41	45
053	Social Studies – Sociology	56	3.71	26	29	33	37	41
054	World Languages – Chinese (Mandarin) ²	MCQ:21	2.22	9	12	14	16	18
		CRI: 40	2.00	25	27	29	31	33
055	World Languages – French ²	MCQ: 52	3.21	32	35	38	42	45
		CRI: 16	1.00	11	12	13	14	15
056	World Languages – German ²	MCQ: 52	3.37	29	33	36	39	43
		CRI: 16	1.00	9	10	11	12	13
057	World Languages – Japanese ²	MCQ: 21	2.13	11	13	15	17	19
		CRI: 40	2.00	26	28	30	32	34
058	World Languages – Latin ²	MCQ: 23	2.34	10	13	15	17	20
		CRI: 40	2.00	23	25	27	29	31
059	World Languages – Spanish ²	MCQ: 52	3.34	30	33	36	40	43
		CRI: 16	1.00	10	11	12	13	14
065	Virtual Instruction ³	60	--	--	--	--	--	--

³ Assessment is currently being developed. Standard setting activities are scheduled to be conducted for this field in fall 2013.