

Guide to Assessments for Educator Certification in Connecticut



Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification

April 2019

Connecticut's Assessment Requirements for Certification

Applicants seeking certification in Connecticut generally must pass one or more of the following assessments depending on the endorsement areas sought. Applicants should apply for certification and submit all requested documentation to determine specific testing requirements.

| ASSESSMENT | REQUIRED FOR | ASSESSMENT FOCUS | MINIMUM PASSING SCORE |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| Praxis II www.ets.org/praxis 800-772-9476 Special accommodations: 866-387-8602 | Applicants seeking an endorsement for which a subject area test has been adopted. (See test areas.) | Subject knowledge competence in the areas in which certification is sought. | Varies |
| ACTFL OPI & WPT www.languagetesting.com 800-486-8444 | Applicants seeking an endorsement to teach a world language or bilingual education. | Written and oral competence in the world language | Varies |
| Pearson Foundations of Reading Test www.ct.nesinc.com 413-256-2896 | Applicants seeking the following endorsements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary education (#013, #305) Integrated early childhood/special education PK-K, elementary education grades 1–3 (#113) Comprehensive special education (#165) | Proficiency and depth of understanding in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundations of reading development; Development of reading comprehension; and Reading assessment and instruction. | 240 |
| Pearson Reading Specialist Test www.ct.nesinc.com 413-256-2896 | Applicants seeking the following endorsements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remedial reading/remedial language arts (#102) Reading and language arts consultant (#097) | Proficiency and depth of understanding in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Processes and Development; Reading Assessment; Reading Instruction; and Professional Knowledge and Roles of the Reading Specialist. | Current pilot score: 215 |
| Pearson Early Childhood Test www.ct.nesinc.com 413-256-2896 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants seeking the integrated early childhood education endorsement (#113) | Proficiency and depth of understanding in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Child Development; Knowledge of Children's Literature and the Writing Process; and Core Knowledge in the Content Areas. | Current pilot score: 216 |
| Connecticut Administrator Test (CAT) www.ets.org 800-772-9476 | Applicants for an intermediate administration or supervision endorsement (#092) with less than three years administrative experience within the last 10 years, who never held a Connecticut certificate endorsed in this area. | Standards-based knowledge and skills necessary for competent professional practice as an entry-level school administrator. | 146 |

Praxis Core Academic Skills Test Waiver

STATE READING, WRITING AND MATHEMATICS COMPETENCY EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Under Public Act 16-41: An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force, effective

July 1, 2016, the Praxis Core Academic Skills Test is no longer required for state certification. However, Connecticut educator preparation providers (EPPs) must ensure that candidates take the Praxis Core Mathematics, Reading and Writing tests or one of the following State Board of Education approved equivalent assessments for diagnostic purposes to meet the state competency examination requirements for reading, writing and mathematics:

- SAT
- ACT
- GRE

Each person formally admitted to a State Board of Education (SBE) approved teacher preparation program shall take the state reading, writing and mathematics competency examination prescribed by and administered under the direction of the State Board of Education. The results shall be used as a diagnostic tool, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the SBE, to provide necessary remediation and support while enrolled in the preparation program.

Questions regarding requirements for individual educator preparation programs should be submitted to the specific college, university or alternate route program. Questions regarding assessment requirements for certification should be emailed to teacher.cert@ct.gov.

REGISTERING FOR THE PRAXIS® CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS (CORE) TESTS

If you need to take the Core Academic Skills tests to meet requirements set by your Educational Preparation Program, please follow the steps outlined below to register:

1. Log into your online Praxis account
2. Select the "Register for a Praxis test link"
3. Select the "I Agree" button
4. Select the "Continue" button after confirming your personal information
5. Select the "EPP Test Requirements" button to view a full list of Praxis tests. The Core Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Combined tests will be available in this list.

Subject Area Assessments

| CERTIFICATION AREA ENDORSEMENT | TEST COMPANY | TEST CODE | TEST TITLE | PASSING SCORE |
|---|-----------------|--------------|--|------------------|
| ART EDUCATION #042 Art PK-12 | ETS | 5135 | Art: Content and Analysis | 161 |
| BIOLOGY (SECONDARY) #030 Biology 7-12 | ETS | 5235 | Biology: Content Knowledge | 152 |
| BUSINESS EDUCATION #010 Business 7-12 | ETS | 5101 | Business Education: Content Knowledge | 154 |
| CHEMISTRY (SECONDARY) #031 Chemistry 7-12 | ETS | 5245 | Chemistry: Content Knowledge | 151 |
| EARTH SCIENCE (SECONDARY) #033 Earth Science 7-12 | ETS | 5571 | Earth & Space Sciences: Content Knowledge | 157 |
| EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION #113 Integrated Early Childhood/ Special Education N-K; Elementary 1-3 | Pearson | | Early Childhood Test | 216 |
| | Pearson | | Foundations of Reading Test | 240 |
| ELEMENTARY EDUCATION #013 Elementary Grades K-6 #305 Elementary Grades 1-6 | ETS | 5002† | Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Subtest 1: Reading & Language Arts Subtest 2: Mathematics Subtest 3: Social Studies Subtest 4: Science <i>† Test code 5001, all four test codes above taken in one sitting, is also accepted.</i> | 157 |
| | | 5003† | | 157 |
| 5004† | | 155 | | |
| 5005† | | 159 | | |
| | Pearson | | Foundations of Reading | 240 |
| ENGLISH (SECONDARY) #015 English 7-12 | ETS | 5039 | English Language Arts: Content & Analysis | 168 |
| FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE #045 Home Economics PK-12 | ETS | 5122 | Family and Consumer Sciences | 153 |
| GENERAL SCIENCE (SECONDARY) #034 General Science 7-12 | ETS | 5435 | General Science: Content Knowledge | 157 |
| HEALTH EDUCATION #043 Health Education PK-12 | ETS | 5551 | Health Education | 164 |
| HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES (SECONDARY) #026 History/Social Studies 7-12 | ETS | 5081 | Social Studies: Content Knowledge | 162 |
| MATHEMATICS (SECONDARY) #029 Mathematics 7-12 | ETS | 5161 | Mathematics: Content Knowledge (calculator required) | 160 |
| MIDDLE GRADES ENGLISH #215 English Middle School 4-8 | ETS | 5047 | Middle School English Language Arts | 164 |

Continued on next page. ►

Subject Area Assessments, continued

| CERTIFICATION AREA ENDORSEMENT | TEST COMPANY | TEST CODE | TEST TITLE | PASSING SCORE |
|---|-----------------|--------------|--|----------------------|
| MIDDLE GRADES MATHEMATICS #229 Mathematics Middle School 4-8 | ETS | 5169 | Middle School Mathematics | 165 |
| MIDDLE GRADES SCIENCE #230 Biology Middle School 4-8 #231 Chemistry Middle School 4-8 #232 Physics Middle School 4-8 #233 Earth Science Middle School 4-8 #234 General Science Middle School 4-8 #235 Integrated Science Middle School 4-8 | ETS | 5440 | Middle School Science | 150 |
| MIDDLE GRADES SOCIAL STUDIES #226 History/Social Studies Middle School 4-8 | ETS | 5089 | Middle School Social Studies | 160 |
| MUSIC EDUCATION #049 Music PK-12 | ETS | 5114 | Music: Content and Instruction | 162 |
| PHYSICAL EDUCATION #044 Physical Education PK-12 | ETS | 5095 | Physical Education: Content and Design | 169 |
| PHYSICS (SECONDARY) #032 Physics 7-12 | ETS | 5265 | Physics: Content Knowledge | 141 |
| REMEDIAL READING/REMEDIAL LANG. ARTS #102 Remedial Reading/Remedial Lang. Arts #097 Reading and Language Arts Consultant | Pearson | | Reading Specialist Test | 215 |
| SOCIAL STUDIES (SECONDARY) #026 History/Social Studies 7-12 | ETS | 5081 | Social Studies: Content Knowledge | 162 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION #165 Comprehensive Special Education K-12 | ETS | 5543 | Spec. Ed.: Core Knowledge & Mild to Moderate Applications | 158 |
| | Pearson | | Foundations of Reading Test | 240 |
| TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION #047 Technology Education PK-12 (Previously Industrial Arts) | ETS | 5051 | Technology Education | 159 |
| TESOL #111 Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages PK-12 | ETS | 5362 | English to Speakers of Other Languages | 155 |
| WORLD LANGUAGES #018 French 7-12 #019 German 7-12 #020 Italian 7-12 #023 Spanish 7-12 #317 Portuguese 7-12 | ACTFL | | Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI or OPIc) for the specific language sought | Advanced Low |
| | ACTFL | | Writing Proficiency Test (WPT or WPTc) for the specific language sought | Advanced Low |
| | ACTFL | | Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI or OPIc) for the specific language sought | Intermediate High |
| | ACTFL | | Writing Proficiency Test (WPT or WPTc) for the specific language sought | Intermediate High |
| #022 Russian 7-12 #024 Other World Language 7-12 | ACTFL | | Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI or OPIc) for the specific language sought | Intermediate High |
| | ACTFL | | Writing Proficiency Test (WPT or WPTc) for the specific language sought | Intermediate High |

Additional Testing Information

ASSESSMENT DEFERRAL FOR OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS

Out-of-state applicants who meet all certification criteria except Connecticut assessment requirements may be issued a nonrenewable interim certificate with a deferral for the required tests. The deferral will be for three years for educators with less than two years of appropriate teaching experience, but may be extended an additional two years for educators with at least two years of appropriate experience. Applicants are eligible for an interim certificate only once, regardless of whether they work under the certificate. **To maintain certification and obtain subsequent certificates, the applicant must complete all required tests before the expiration date of the certificate.** All applicants who are eligible for a deferral of testing requirements will automatically be issued an interim certificate once all requirements other than testing have been met.

Note: Deferrals are not available to candidates who previously have been issued a Connecticut certificate with a testing deferral, or who hold a valid Connecticut educator certificate.

ASSESSMENT EXEMPTIONS FOR OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS

Effective July 1, 2009, amended as of July 1, 2013, out-of-state educators may be exempt from Board-approved assessment requirements, including Praxis II subject knowledge tests, Pearson tests, and/or ACTFL OPI and WPT, if they meet the following criteria:

Hold a valid certificate in another state that is equivalent to at least a Connecticut initial educator certificate AND have one of the following:

1. Three years of successful appropriate experience in the same state (outside CT) in the endorsement requested within the past 10 years; **OR**
2. A master's degree in the academic subject area for which Connecticut certification is being requested. Please note that pedagogical degrees in the subject area (e.g., physical education, elementary education, special education, etc.) do not meet the requirements of the exemption.

ED 711: VERIFICATION OF OUT-OF-STATE EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION TESTS

If you passed an educator certification test required in another U.S. state or territory, the institution of higher education, department of education, or other authorized agency that required the test may complete and submit the Verification of Out-of-State Educator Certification Tests (form ED 711) to this office. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will determine if your test result qualifies as equivalent, in order to waive a Connecticut assessment.

The authorized agency must mail the completed form directly to:

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification
P.O. Box 150471
Hartford, CT 06115-0471

Note: The paper-based ED 711 form is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Certification/Forms/ED_711.pdf?la=en

SUBJECT AREA ASSESSMENT EXCELLENCE SCORES

As of July 1, 2010, candidates for certification in designated shortage areas are allowed to substitute the achievement of excellence scores on the State Board of Education approved subject area assessment(s) appropriate to the certification endorsement sought, in lieu of required subject area major or subject area coursework. Excellence scores may NOT be substituted for required pedagogical coursework. Excellence scores may also be accepted by the Department of Education in lieu of content area coursework required for issuing a cross-endorsement. Educator preparation institutions and alternate route programs have the option to accept excellence scores in lieu of a subject area major or minimum subject area coursework requirements; however, use of this option is at the discretion of each preparation institution or program.

See Certification Alert: [Subject Area Assessment Excellence Scores](#) for current shortage areas and minimum score requirements.

Additional testing information continued on next page. ►

Additional Testing Information, continued

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Candidates with learning/physical disabilities, or whose first language is not English, may be eligible for special testing accommodations. Information on how to apply for special accommodations or document the circumstances requiring accommodation may be obtained from each testing company. [See page 1 for contact information.](#)

SCORE REPORTING

When registering for any test, you must provide your Social Security number to ensure your scores are reported correctly to the State Department of Education.

Candidates who have taken one of the specific tests listed above outside Connecticut should request that the testing agency send a score report to the Connecticut State Department of Education. (For Praxis tests, the ETS recipient code is R7050.)

TEST PREPARATION

Test preparation materials such as detailed test descriptions, sample questions with answers, practice tests and test-taking strategies may be available on the websites of the testing companies. [See page 1 for contact information.](#)

In addition, the regional educational service centers (RESCs) below may offer test preparation assistance:

| RESC | LOCATION | PHONE |
|-----------|------------|-----------------------|
| ACES | Hamden | 203-498-6800 |
| CES | Trumbull | 203-365-8912 |
| CREC | Hartford | 860-247-2732 |
| EASTCONN | Hampton | 860-455-0707 |
| EdAdvance | Litchfield | 860-567-0863 |
| LEARN | Old Lyme | 860-434-4800 ext. 355 |

Additional testing information continued on next page. ►

Transition Policy for Newly Adopted Tests

NEW CONTENT AREA TESTS

When a new test is adopted which is NOT comparable to the test(s) previously required, the new test is required of educators seeking the endorsement who do not hold a valid Connecticut educator certificate in that area. Passing scores on previously required tests cannot be accepted to meet requirements for completely new tests such as the Connecticut Foundations of Reading Test. Educators who allow their certificates to lapse even for a short time may be required to pass all current State Board-approved tests before they will become eligible for recertification. Previously adopted tests will no longer meet eligibility requirements.

However, in the case of the newly adopted Connecticut Administrator Test (CAT), passing scores from the previous CAT will be accepted for five years beyond the initial implementation date of the new CAT, which is September 1, 2018. The previous CAT consisted of four modules: two Instructional Analysis and Teacher Support modules and two School Improvement modules. Candidates who have passed at least one of the Instructional Analysis and Teacher Support modules and at least one of the School Improvement modules by October 31, 2018, will be considered to have passed, and can be recommended for certification through September 1, 2023. For applications received **after September 1, 2023, scores from the previous CAT test will no longer be accepted.**

REGENERATED CONTENT AREA TESTS

When a new test is adopted which IS comparable to the test(s) previously required, the older test(s) may be accepted to meet testing requirements for five years from the effective date of the new test, provided the applicant met the previous requirement PRIOR to the effective date of the new test.

For example, ETS has regenerated the Praxis II Elementary Multiple Subjects Test #5031 (with subtests #5032, #5033, #5034 and #5035). The State Board of Education adopted the new test, #5001 (with subtests #5002, #5003, #5004 and #5005), as of September 1, 2015. Educators do not need to retake sections of the current test #5031 that they pass by September 1, 2015, as long as they pass any combination of all 4 sections by August 31, 2020. Educators who have not applied and met all eligibility requirements by August 31, 2020, including educators who allow their certificate to lapse, will be required to pass all sections of the new test.

Therefore, educators who allow their certificates to lapse five or more years after the effective date of a new comparable test are required to pass current tests before they will become eligible for recertification.

Additional information about testing transitions on next page. ►

Transition Policy for Alignment with Multi-State Standards

MULTI-STATE RECOMMENDED PASSING STANDARDS

Effective September 1, 2016, passing standards for all Praxis II content-area assessments have been aligned with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Multi-State Standard Setting Study (MSSS) Recommended Passing Standards. MSSS Passing Standards are developed through a rigorous process which includes input from diverse groups of educators and content-area experts across the nation, convened specifically to recommend a passing standard for each Praxis content-area assessment.

The alignment with multi-state recommended passing standards changes the passing scores on 11 tests:

- Art: Content and Analysis (#5135)
- Elementary Education Multiple Subjects: Reading and Language Arts (#5002)
- Elementary Education Multiple Subjects: Mathematics (#5003)
- Elementary Education Multiple Subjects: Social Studies (#5004)
- Elementary Education Multiple Subjects: Science (#5005)
- English Language, Literature and Composition: Content & Analysis (#5039)
- Family and Consumer Sciences (#5122)
- Music: Content and Instruction (#5114)
- Physical Education: Content and Design (#5095)
- Special Education: Core Knowledge & Mild to Moderate Applications (#5543)
- Technology Education (#5051)

Current passing scores on all content tests are listed on pages 3-4 of this Guide.

TRANSITION POLICY: On or after September 1, 2016, scores on any content-area assessment currently required for certification in Connecticut which meet the new passing standard (i.e., the MSSS Recommended Passing Standard), regardless of date of test administration, will be accepted to meet assessment requirements for Connecticut educator certification. Retired assessments are not subject to these passing standard changes.

Statutory Authority and Information

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Connecticut law requires that all educators hold a valid Connecticut certificate or permit to be employed in any local or regional public school, or approved private special education facility. Eligibility for certification is based on completion of requirements specific to the endorsement including, but not limited to:

- planned program/course work;
- assessments; and/or
- experiential requirements.

The Connecticut State Board of Education reviews and adopts Connecticut assessment requirements. For more information, see Sec. 10-145f of the *Connecticut General Statutes*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CONNECTICUT ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Web: www.ct.gov/sde/cert

E-mail: teacher.cert@ct.gov

Phone: 860-713-6969
(Noon – 4:00 p.m., Monday and Thursday, excluding holidays)

Mail: Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification
P.O. Box 150471
Hartford, CT 06115-0471