



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: June 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Teacher Certification Assessments, Revisions
TEST APPROVAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFYING SCORES

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to seek approval from the State Board of Education (SBOE) to adopt four Educational Testing Service (ETS) Praxis subject assessments: Middle School Mathematics (5164), Middle School Science (5442), Physical Science (5485), and Secondary Mathematics (5165).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Since 1987, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has required state certification tests to assess basic skills, content knowledge, and pedagogy. These tests provide validation that teacher candidates have entry level skills to begin their professional careers. In an effort to maintain currency in various content fields, ETS revises most tests on a five-year schedule and at the same time works to create new tests based on a demonstrated need.

To support the decision-making process for state departments of education with regard to establishing a passing score, research staff from ETS design and conducts two Multistate Standards Setting Studies for each test (25 educators on each team). The two, non-overlapping panels represent and provide a replication of the judgment process to strengthen the technical quality of the recommended passing score. The panelists, selected from states that will use the test, are recommended by state departments of education to participate as experts for the Multistate Standard Setting Studies.

The panelists judge the extent to which the knowledge and/or skills reflected by the content specifications are important for entry-level teachers. ETS also collects content-related validity evidence to confirm the importance of the content specifications for entry level teachers. The recommended cut scores from the two panels are averaged and then converted to a scale score with a range from 100 to 200. This score becomes the recommended qualifying score of the study.

ETS guidelines seeks to adopt a score that does not exceed a plus or minus two standard errors of measurement from the recommended qualifying score. In this way, ETS is able to assure states that they have engaged in a process which ensures legal defensibility of the score.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Praxis Middle School Mathematics (5164), Middle School Science (5442), and Secondary Mathematics (5165) assessments have been regenerated from previous versions currently adopted in Maryland. The Praxis Physical Science (5485) assessment is a new addition to *The Praxis Series*, designed to support the certification of physical science teachers. Currently, Maryland has no content assessment for physical science and is therefore, requesting to adopt the Praxis 5485 as the required content assessment for physical science certification.

ACTION:

I am requesting that the SBOE approve the adoption and set the qualifying score for the following Praxis subject assessments for certification:

Test Code	Test Name	Qualifying Score	Scale
5164	Middle School Mathematics	157	100-200
5165	Mathematics	159	100-200
5442	Middle School Science	152	100-200
5485	Physical Science	157	100-200

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