


TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools 

DATE: July 23, 2024

SUBJECT: Praxis Core Math Subtest- Permission to Discontinue

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to request permission to discontinue the Praxis Core Math Subtest (5733) as a requirement for initial teacher licensure.

Background

Maryland Code, Education Article §6-126 requires candidates enrolled in Maryland-approved teacher preparation programs to demonstrate basic literacy skills as a requirement for initial teacher licensure. The law states that teacher candidates may demonstrate basic literacy skills in one of the following ways:

1. Pass a basic literacy skills assessment approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE);
2. Earn a minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale on the most recently earned degree; or
3. Receive effective evaluations from a local school system for three years.

Maryland accepts the Praxis Core as an approved basic literacy skills assessment. Currently, all three subtests of the Praxis Core (i.e., reading, writing, and math) are required when applying for initial teacher licensure if the applicant is demonstrating basic literacy skills through the assessment option. In addition to the basic literacy skills requirement, all teacher candidates must pass an approved content assessment that is aligned to the area of licensure they are seeking. For example, an applicant who is seeking licensure in secondary math must submit one of the three basic literacy skills measures and the Praxis Mathematics: Content Knowledge assessment.

Executive Summary

In April 2024, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board and State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted new licensure regulations that aim to remove unnecessary barriers to licensure. Consistent with this objective, MSDE is recommending that the SBOE discontinue the Praxis Core Math Subtest as a requirement to demonstrate basic literacy skills given that teacher candidates preparing to teach math are required to pass a content assessment addressing math content knowledge.

Action

The MSDE is requesting the SBOE discontinue the Praxis Core Math Subtest (5733) as a requirement for initial teacher licensure. The Praxis Core Reading and Writing Subtests will remain a requirement for those teacher candidates who demonstrate basic literacy skills mastery by passing an assessment.