

Teacher Candidate Basic Skills Requirement

Regulations adopted by the State Board of Education on June 4, 2014 include a basic skills requirement for teacher preparation program entry and teacher certification

As of September 1, 2015:

- x Candidates starting a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) educator preparation program (formerly known as “traditional route”) must meet the basic skills requirement prior to starting coursework in a program
- x Candidates seeking an initial Certificate of Eligibility (CE) (formerly known as “alternate route”) must meet the basic skills requirement prior to being issued a CE except:
 - o Candidates applying for a CE with a career and technical education (CTE) endorsement – other than business-related or family and consumer science endorsements have until the application for a standard certificate to meet the basic skills requirement.

Two Ways to Meet the Basic Skills Requirement

1. Pass a Commission approved assessment of basic skills. Currently the only approved assessment is the Praxis Core Academic Skills with passing scores as follows Reading: 156,

1. If a candidate completed and passed the Professional Skills Test (PPST / Praxis) prior to June 2014, the Department will accept passing scores on those exams to satisfy the basic skills requirement (passing scores on PPST are as follows: Reading: 175, Math: 174, Writing: 173).
2. Regulations allow candidates who achieved a score on the SAT, ACT or GRE that was “approximately equal to the top-percentile score for all test takers in the year the respective exam was taken” to be exempt from taking the Praxis Core. These cut scores represent that approximate “top third percentile score”
3. Note that the SAT will change in spring of 2016. At that time the Department will update guidance on acceptable cut scores