



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

July 21, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Modification of Required Foundational Reading Assessment as a Precondition for Initial Certification

On March 11, 2021, members of the Alabama State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted a new foundational reading assessment as a precondition for initial certification via the Alabama-approved Educator Preparation Program Approach and other certification approaches for the areas of Elementary Education (K-6), Early Childhood Education (P-3), and Collaborative Special Education (K-6).

Foundations of Reading 190, a Massachusetts foundational reading assessment administered by the Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson, will replace Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading Elementary, the current foundational reading assessment used in Alabama.

The subsequent charts will provide additional information regarding the implementation of the Foundations of Reading 190 assessment. The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Assessment Policies Manual will be updated to reflect this information prior to implementation:

1. Individuals unconditionally admitted to an approved Class B or Alternative A program in Elementary Education or Early Childhood Education at an Alabama Educator Preparation Provider (EPP):

| Area of Certification | Content Area Test Requirements for Individuals Unconditionally Admitted to EPP Prior to September 1, 2022 | Content Area Test Requirements for Individuals Unconditionally Admitted to EPP September 1, 2022, and Thereafter |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Elementary (K-6) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary The edTPA Elementary Education Handbook | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* Foundations of Reading 190 The edTPA Elementary Education Handbook |
| Early Childhood (P-3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praxis #5025 Early Childhood Education Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary The edTPA Early Childhood Education Handbook | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praxis #5025 Early Childhood Education Foundations of Reading 190 The edTPA Early Childhood Education Handbook |

*Praxis #5003, #5004, and/or #5005 may be substituted for the corresponding subtest(s) of Praxis #5901.

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2. Individuals unconditionally admitted to an approved Class B or Alternative A program in Collaborative Special Education (K-6) at an Alabama Educator Preparation Provider (EPP):

| Area of Certification | Content Area Test Requirements for Individuals Unconditionally Admitted to EPP Prior to September 1, 2020 | Content Area Test Requirements for Individuals Unconditionally Admitted to EPP Between September 1, 2020, and August 31, 2022 | Content Area Test Requirements for Individuals Unconditionally Admitted to EPP September 1, 2022, and Thereafter |
|---|--|--|---|
| Collaborative Special Education (K-6)** | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary or Praxis #5002 Elementary Education: Reading Language Arts • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications • The edTPA Special Education Handbook | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications • The edTPA Special Education Handbook | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Foundations of Reading 190 • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications • The edTPA Special Education Handbook |

* Praxis #5003, #5004, and/or #5005 may be substituted for the corresponding subtest(s) of Praxis #5901.

**As advised in the August 19, 2020, Memorandum, *Modification of Collaborative Special Education K-6 Testing Requirements*, Praxis #5901 and Praxis #5205 or Foundations of Reading 190 (as applicable) are not required if the individual holds a valid Alabama Professional Educator Certificate in Elementary Education, Grades K-6.

3. For applications through the following approaches:
- Initial Alabama certification based upon the Certificate Reciprocity Approach (wherein content knowledge test scores are used to meet the testing requirement).
 - Certification Based on Test Approach.
 - Certificate Renewal (Reinstatement).

Testing will continue to be a requirement for certificates that have lapsed for more than 12 months and an option for certificates that have lapsed less than 12 months.

| Area of Certification | Test Requirements for Applications Received Prior to September 1, 2022 | Test Requirements for Applications Received September 1, 2022, and Thereafter |
|---|--|---|
| Elementary (K-6) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Foundations of Reading 190 |
| Early Childhood (P-3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5025 Early Childhood Education • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5025 Early Childhood Education • Foundations of Reading 190 |
| Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6)** | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Foundations of Reading 190 • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications |

* Praxis #5903, #5904, and/or #5905 may be substituted for the corresponding subtest(s) of Praxis #5901.

**As advised in the August 19, 2020, Memorandum, *Modification of Collaborative Special Education K-6 Testing Requirements*, Praxis #5901 and Praxis #5205 or Foundations of Reading 190 (as applicable) are not required if the individual holds a valid Alabama Professional Educator Certificate in Elementary Education, Grades K-6.

4. Initial Alabama certification based upon the Foreign Credentials Approach:

| Area of Certification | Test Requirements for Applications Received Prior to September 1, 2022 | Test Requirements for Applications Received September 1, 2022, and Thereafter |
|---|---|--|
| Elementary (K-6) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary • Praxis #5622 Principles of Learning and Teaching: K-6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Foundations of Reading 190 • Praxis #5622 Principles of Learning and Teaching: K-6 |
| Early Childhood (P-3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5025 Early Childhood Education • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary • Praxis #5622 Principles of Learning and Teaching: K-6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5025 Early Childhood Education • Foundations of Reading 190 • Praxis #5622 Principles of Learning and Teaching: K-6 |
| Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6)** | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications • Praxis #5622 Principles of Learning and Teaching: K-6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education (includes Praxis #5903, #5904, and #5905)* • Foundations of Reading 190 • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications • Praxis #5622 Principles of Learning and Teaching: K-6 |

* Praxis #5003, #5004, and/or #5005 may be substituted for the corresponding subtest(s) of Praxis #5901.

**As advised in the August 19, 2020, Memorandum, *Modification of Collaborative Special Education K-6 Testing Requirements*, Praxis #5901 and Praxis #5205 or Foundations of Reading 190 (as applicable) are not required if the individual holds a valid Alabama Professional Educator Certificate in Elementary Education, Grades K-6.

An Alabama standard-setting study will establish the required passing score for Foundations of Reading 190. This study will take place prior to September 1, 2022.

For additional information regarding this foundational reading assessment change, please contact Dr. Deanise Peacock, Assessment Coordinator, at dpeacock@alsde.edu.

EGM/DFP/HMS

cc: Deans of Education
 Mrs. Angela Martin
 Dr. Jayne A. Meyer
 Mrs. Shavon H. Cummings
 Dr. Deanise Peacock

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