



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION




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

April 6, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Modification of Certain Praxis Tests and Adoption of Additional Praxis Tests as a Precondition for Initial Certification in Response to the Requirements of the *Alabama Literacy Act*

On March 12, 2020, members of the Alabama State Board of Education (SBOE) approved a resolution to modify certain Praxis tests and adopt additional Praxis tests as a precondition for initial certification in response to requirements of the *Alabama Literacy Act*, enacted June 10, 2019, and now codified as Section 16-6G-1, *et seq.*, *Code of Alabama* (1975), which states in part:

“As a requirement of initial licensure, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, candidates for initial elementary certification shall receive a passing score, as determined by the State Board of Education ... on a foundational reading assessment for entry level teachers of reading. Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, teachers seeking an initial elementary certification who have passed the edTPA and a foundational reading assessment may no longer be required to pass an additional reading assessment.”

To comply with *The Alabama Literacy Act* and only require one reading assessment, the following changes will become effective September 1, 2020:

- Praxis #5001 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects, which includes four subtests, #5002 Reading Language Arts; #5003 Mathematics; #5004 Social Studies; and #5005 Science is discontinued for the areas of program admission and certification.
- Praxis #5901, which includes three subtests, #5003 Mathematics; #5004 Social Studies; and #5005 Science is adopted for the areas of program admission and certification.

The subsequent charts listed on the following pages will summarize the changes to program admission and certification requirements for all areas:

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1. Individuals unconditionally admitted to an approved program 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 September 1, 2020, and Thereafter
Elementary (K-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The edTPA Elementary Handbook • Praxis #5001 Elementary Education • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The edTPA Elementary Handbook • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary
Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The edTPA Special Education Handbook • Praxis #5001 Elementary Education • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The edTPA Special Education Handbook • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary

2. Initial Alabama certification based upon the Foreign Credentials Approach, the Certificate Reciprocity Approach (wherein Praxis scores are used to meet the testing requirement), the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Approach, and the Certification Based on Test Approach:

Area of Certification	Test Requirements for Applications Received Prior to September 1, 2020	Test Requirements for Applications Received September 1, 2020, and Thereafter
Elementary (K-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5001 Elementary Education • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary
Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5001 Elementary Education • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary

3. Certificate Renewal (Reinstatement). Praxis testing will continue to be a requirement for certificates that have lapsed for more than twelve 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, 2020	Test Requirements for Applications Received September 1, 2020, and Thereafter
Elementary (K-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5001 Elementary Education • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary
Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5001 Elementary Education • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis #5901 Elementary Education • Praxis #5354 Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications • Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary

4. Meeting general studies requirement and/or requirements for admission to an approved program at an EPP with Grade Point Average (GPA) below 2.75 overall:

Praxis #5901, combined with at least 12 semester hours of acceptable credit earned in the area of English language arts, may be utilized by individuals applying for unconditional admission to an approved program at an EPP on September 1, 2020, and thereafter, in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Education (P-3)
- Elementary Education (K-6)
- Early Childhood Special Education (P-3)
- Collaborative Special Education Teacher (K-6 or 6-12)

The individual either: (1) needs a current passing score on a prescribed subtest(s) of Praxis #5901 in lieu of at least 12 semester hours of acceptable credit in the areas of mathematics, science, and social studies or (2) did not meet the current 2.75 overall grade point average (GPA) requirement for admission, but has a 2.0 or higher overall GPA and must earn alternative (i.e., higher) scores on all subtests of Praxis #5901.

For additional information regarding Praxis test modifications or additions, please contact Dr. Deanise F. Peacock, Assessment Coordinator, by email at dpeacock@alsde.edu.

EGM/DFP/SG

cc: Deans of Education
 Dr. Daniel Boyd
 Dr. Jayne A. Meyer
 Mrs. Shavon Cummings