

Guide to Assessments for Educator Certification in Connecticut



Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification

September 2016

Connecticut's Assessment Requirements for Certification

Applicants seeking certification in Connecticut generally must pass one or more of the following assessments depending on the endorsement areas sought. Applicants should apply for certification and submit all requested documentation to determine specific testing requirements.

ASSESSMENT	REQUIRED FOR	ASSESSMENT FOCUS	MINIMUM PASSING SCORE
Praxis II www.ets.org/praxis 800-772-9476 Special accommodations: 866-387-8602	Applicants seeking an endorsement for which a subject area test has been adopted. (See test areas.)	Subject knowledge competence in the areas in which certification is sought.	Varies
ACTFL OPI & WPT www.languagetesting.com 800-486-8444	Applicants seeking an endorsement to teach a world language or bilingual education.	Written and oral competence in the world language	Varies
Pearson Foundations of Reading Test www.ct.nesinc.com 413-256-2896	Applicants seeking the following endorsements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary education (#013, #305) Integrated early childhood/special education PK-K, elementary education grades 1–3 (#113) Comprehensive special education (#165) 	Proficiency and depth of understanding in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundations of reading development; Development of reading comprehension; and Reading assessment and instruction. 	240
Pearson Reading Specialist Test www.ct.nesinc.com 413-256-2896	Applicants seeking the following endorsements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remedial reading/remedial language arts (#102) Reading and language arts consultant (#097) 	Proficiency and depth of understanding in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Processes and Development; Reading Assessment; Reading Instruction; and Professional Knowledge and Roles of the Reading Specialist. 	Current pilot score: 215
Pearson Early Childhood Test www.ct.nesinc.com 413-256-2896	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants seeking the integrated early childhood education endorsement (#113) 	Proficiency and depth of understanding in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of Child Development; Knowledge of Children's Literature and the Writing Process; and Core Knowledge in the Content Areas. 	Current pilot score: 216
Connecticut Administrator Test (CAT) www.eastconn.org/cat 860-455-1579	Applicants for an intermediate administration or supervision endorsement (#092) with less than three years administrative experience within the last 10 years, who never held a Connecticut certificate endorsed in this area.	An administrator's ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and evaluate teacher instruction; and Analyze school-based data to develop a school improvement process. 	Available at www.eastconn.org/cat

Praxis Core Academic Skills Test Waiver

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE PRAXIS CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS TEST

Under Public Act 16-41: *An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force*, effective July 1, 2016, the Praxis Core Academic Skills Tests is no longer required as a state certification requirement. However, Connecticut educator preparation programs must still ensure that candidates take the Praxis Core Mathematics, Reading, and Writing tests. The State Department of Education will continue to issue waivers for prospective educator preparation program candidates, according to current waiver criteria, until further guidance is issued.

Questions regarding requirements for individual educator preparation programs should be submitted to the specific college, university or alternate route program. Questions regarding assessment requirements for certification should be emailed to teacher.cert@ct.gov.

PRAXIS CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS TEST WAIVER

Candidates who meet the minimum score requirements on one of the tests listed below may be eligible for a Praxis Core Academic Skills Test waiver. Candidates should apply for a waiver online, once they have created an account on the Connecticut Educator Certification System (CECS) at www.ct.gov/sde/cert. Paper ED192 waiver applications are also available at www.ct.gov/sde/certapps. To be considered for a waiver, test scores must be submitted directly by the testing agencies listed below. If you have taken the SAT/ACT/GRE on more than one occasion, your highest verbal score and your highest mathematics scores will be combined.

TEST	TEST DATE	MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR AN ACADEMIC SKILLS ASSESSMENT WAIVER				
		COMBINED VERBAL/MATH SCORE	VERBAL/ ENGLISH SCORE	MATH/ QUANTITATIVE SCORE	ANALYTIC WRITING SCORE	ESLAT/TOEFL SCORE
SAT	Prior to March 31, 1995	1000	No less than 400	No less than 400		
	On/After April 1, 1995	1100	No less than 450	No less than 450		
ACT	Prior to October 1989		20	17		
	On/After October 1989		22	19		
GRE	Prior to October 1, 2002	1000	450	500		
	On/After October 1, 2002	1000	450	500	4.5	
	On/After August 1, 2011	297	150	144	4.5	
PAA		Equivalent to 1000 (see conversion table)	No less than 400	No less than 400		510

REGISTERING FOR THE PRAXIS® CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS (CORE) TESTS

If you need to take the Core Academic Skills tests to meet requirements set by your Educational Preparation Program, please follow the steps outlined below to register:

1. Log into your online Praxis account
2. Select the "Register for a Praxis test link"
3. Select the "I Agree" button
4. Select the "Continue" button after confirming your personal information
5. Select the "EPP Test Requirements" button to view a full list of Praxis tests. The Core Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Combined tests will be available in this list.

Subject Area Assessments

CERTIFICATION AREA ENDORSEMENT	TEST COMPANY	TEST CODE	TEST TITLE	PASSING SCORE
ART EDUCATION #042 Art PK-12	ETS	5135	Art: Content and Analysis	161
BIOLOGY (SECONDARY) #030 Biology 7-12	ETS	5235	Biology: Content Knowledge	152
BUSINESS EDUCATION #010 Business 7-12	ETS	5101	Business Education: Content Knowledge	154
CHEMISTRY (SECONDARY) #031 Chemistry 7-12	ETS	5245	Chemistry: Content Knowledge	151
EARTH SCIENCE (SECONDARY) #033 Earth Science 7-12	ETS	5571	Earth & Space Sciences: Content Knowledge	157
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION #113 Integrated Early Childhood/ Special Education N-K; Elementary 1-3	Pearson		Early Childhood Test	216*
	Pearson		Foundations of Reading Test	240
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION #013 Elementary Grades K-6 #305 Elementary Grades 1-6	ETS	5002†	Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Subtest 1: Reading & Language Arts Subtest 2: Mathematics Subtest 3: Social Studies Subtest 4: Science † Test code 5001, all four test codes above taken in one sitting, is also accepted.	157
		5003†		157
5004†	155			
5005†	159			
Pearson		Foundations of Reading		240
ENGLISH (SECONDARY) #015 English 7-12	ETS	5039	English Language Arts: Content & Analysis	168
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE #045 Home Economics PK-12	ETS	5122	Family and Consumer Sciences	153
GENERAL SCIENCE (SECONDARY) #034 General Science 7-12	ETS	5435	General Science: Content Knowledge	157
HEALTH EDUCATION #043 Health Education PK-12	ETS	5551	Health Education	164
HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES (SECONDARY) #026 History/Social Studies 7-12	ETS	5081	Social Studies: Content Knowledge	162
MATHEMATICS (SECONDARY) #029 Mathematics 7-12	ETS	5161	Mathematics: Content Knowledge (calculator required)	160
MIDDLE GRADES ENGLISH #215 English Middle School 4-8	ETS	5047	Middle School English Language Arts	164

* Passing score during pilot period. Future passing score to be determined.

Continued on next page. ►

Subject Area Assessments, continued

CERTIFICATION AREA ENDORSEMENT	TEST COMPANY	TEST CODE	TEST TITLE	PASSING SCORE
MIDDLE GRADES MATHEMATICS #229 Mathematics Middle School 4-8	ETS	5169	Middle School Mathematics	165
MIDDLE GRADES SCIENCE #230 Biology Middle School 4-8 #231 Chemistry Middle School 4-8 #232 Physics Middle School 4-8 #233 Earth Science Middle School 4-8 #234 General Science Middle School 4-8 #235 Integrated Science Middle School 4-8	ETS	5440	Middle School Science	150
MIDDLE GRADES SOCIAL STUDIES #226 History/Social Studies Middle School 4-8	ETS	5089	Middle School Social Studies	160
MUSIC EDUCATION #049 Music PK-12	ETS	5114	Music: Content and Instruction	162
PHYSICAL EDUCATION #044 Physical Education PK-12	ETS	5095	Physical Education: Content and Design	169
PHYSICS (SECONDARY) #032 Physics 7-12	ETS	5265	Physics: Content Knowledge	141
REMEDIAL READING/REMEDIAL LANG. ARTS #102 Remedial Reading/Remedial Lang. Arts #097 Reading and Language Arts Consultant	Pearson		Reading Specialist Test	215*
SOCIAL STUDIES (SECONDARY) #026 History/Social Studies 7-12	ETS	5081	Social Studies: Content Knowledge	162
SPECIAL EDUCATION #165 Comprehensive Special Education K-12	ETS	5543	Spec. Ed.: Core Knowledge & Mild to Moderate Applications	158
	Pearson		Foundations of Reading Test	240
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION #047 Technology Education PK-12 (Previously Industrial Arts)	ETS	5051	Technology Education	159
TESOL #111 Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages PK-12	ETS	5362	English to Speakers of Other Languages	155
WORLD LANGUAGES #018 French 7-12 #019 German 7-12 #020 Italian 7-12 #023 Spanish 7-12 #317 Portuguese 7-12 #022 Russian 7-12 #024 Other World Language 7-12	ACTFL		Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI or OPIC) for the specific language sought	Advanced Low
	ACTFL		Writing Proficiency Test (WPT or iWPT) for the specific language sought	Advanced Low
	ACTFL		Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI or OPIC) for the specific language sought	Intermediate High
	ACTFL		Writing Proficiency Test (WPT or iWPT) for the specific language sought	Intermediate High

* Passing score during pilot period. Future passing score to be determined.

Additional Testing Information

TESTING DEFERRAL

A certificate issued with a testing deferral is valid for one year and is nonrenewable. All testing requirements must be met by the expiration date on the certificate. Testing deferrals are automatic for those who are eligible, once all other certification criteria have been met. Deferrals are available as follows:

- **Praxis II, Pearson tests (Foundations of Reading, Reading Specialist, or Early Childhood), or ACTFL:**
A candidate who completed a planned program at an approved out-of-state institution and/or has experience in another state, may be eligible for a one-year deferral of testing requirements.
- **CAT Deferral:** A candidate who is seeking the intermediate administration or supervision endorsement (#092) who has less than three years of administrative experience within the last 10 years may be eligible for a one-year deferral of the CAT requirement. Candidates who complete a Connecticut administrator preparation program must complete the CAT to be recommended for certification.

Note: Deferrals are not available to candidates who previously have been issued a Connecticut certificate with a testing deferral, or who hold a valid Connecticut educator certificate.

ASSESSMENT EXEMPTIONS

Effective July 1, 2009, amended as of July 1, 2013, out-of-state educators may be exempt from Board-approved assessment requirements, including Praxis II subject knowledge tests, Pearson tests, and/or ACTFL OPI and WPT, if they meet the following criteria:

Hold a valid certificate in another state that is equivalent to at least a Connecticut initial educator certificate AND have one of the following:

1. Three years of successful appropriate experience in the same state (outside CT) in the endorsement requested within the past 10 years; **OR**
2. A master's degree in the academic subject area for which Connecticut certification is being requested. Please note that pedagogical degrees in the subject area (e.g., physical education, elementary education, special education, etc.) do not meet the requirements of the exemption.

SUBJECT AREA ASSESSMENT EXCELLENCE SCORES

As of July 1, 2010, candidates for certification in designated shortage areas are allowed to substitute the achievement of excellence scores on the State Board of Education approved subject area assessment(s) appropriate to the certification endorsement sought, in lieu of required subject area major or subject area coursework. Excellence scores may NOT be substituted for required pedagogical coursework. Excellence scores may also be accepted by the Department of Education in lieu of content area coursework required for issuing a cross-endorsement. Educator preparation institutions and alternate route programs have the option to accept excellence scores in lieu of a subject area major or minimum subject area coursework requirements; however, use of this option is at the discretion of each preparation institution or program.

See Certification Alert: [Subject Area Assessment Excellence Scores](#) for current shortage areas and minimum score requirements.

Additional testing information continued on next page. ►

Additional Testing Information, continued

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Candidates with learning/physical disabilities, or whose first language is not English, may be eligible for special testing accommodations. Information on how to apply for special accommodations or document the circumstances requiring accommodation may be obtained from each testing company. [See page 1 for contact information.](#)

SCORE REPORTING

When registering for any test, you must provide your Social Security number to ensure your scores are reported correctly to the State Department of Education.

Candidates who have taken one of the specific tests listed above outside Connecticut should request that the testing agency send a score report to the Connecticut State Department of Education. (For Praxis tests, the ETS recipient code is R7050.)

TEST PREPARATION

Test preparation materials such as detailed test descriptions, sample questions with answers, practice tests and test-taking strategies may be available on the websites of the testing companies. [See page 1 for contact information.](#)

In addition, the regional educational service centers (RESCs) below may offer test preparation assistance:

RESC	LOCATION	PHONE
ACES	Hamden	203-498-6800
CES	Trumbull	203-365-8912
CREC	Hartford	860-247-2732
EASTCONN	Hampton	860-455-0707
EdAdvance	Litchfield	860-567-0863
LEARN	Old Lyme	860-434-4800 ext. 352

Additional testing information continued on next page. ►

Transition Policy for Newly Adopted Tests

NEW CONTENT AREA TESTS

When a new test is adopted which is NOT comparable to the test(s) previously required, the new test is required of educators seeking the endorsement who do not hold a valid Connecticut educator certificate in that area. Passing scores on previously required tests cannot be accepted to meet requirements for completely new tests such as the Connecticut Foundations of Reading Test. Educators who allow their certificates to lapse even for a short time may be required to pass all current State Board-approved tests before they will become eligible for recertification. Previously adopted tests will no longer meet eligibility requirements.

REGENERATED CONTENT AREA TESTS

When a new test is adopted which IS comparable to the test(s) previously required, the older test(s) may be accepted to meet testing requirements for five years from the effective date of the new test, provided the applicant met the previous requirement PRIOR to the effective date of the new test.

For example, ETS has regenerated the Praxis II Elementary Multiple Subjects Test #5031 (with subtests #5032, #5033, #5034 and #5035). The State Board of Education adopted the new test, #5001 (with subtests #5002, #5003, #5004 and #5005), as of September 1, 2015. Educators do not need to retake sections of the current test #5031 that they pass by September 1, 2015, as long as they pass any combination of all 4 sections by August 31, 2020. Educators who have not applied and met all eligibility requirements by August 31, 2020, including educators who allow their certificate to lapse, will be required to pass all sections of the new test.

Therefore, educators who allow their certificates to lapse five or more years after the effective date of a new comparable test are required to pass current tests before they will become eligible for recertification.

Additional information about testing transitions on next page. ►

Transition Policy for Alignment with Multi-State Standards

MULTI-STATE RECOMMENDED PASSING STANDARDS

Effective September 1, 2016, passing standards for all Praxis II content-area assessments have been aligned with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Multi-State Standard Setting Study (MSSS) Recommended Passing Standards. MSSS Passing Standards are developed through a rigorous process which includes input from diverse groups of educators and content-area experts across the nation, convened specifically to recommend a passing standard for each Praxis content-area assessment.

The alignment with multi-state recommended passing standards changes the passing scores on 11 tests:

- Art: Content and Analysis (#5135)
- Elementary Education Multiple Subjects: Reading and Language Arts (#5002)
- Elementary Education Multiple Subjects: Mathematics (#5003)
- Elementary Education Multiple Subjects: Social Studies (#5004)
- Elementary Education Multiple Subjects: Science (#5005)
- English Language, Literature and Composition: Content & Analysis (#5039)
- Family and Consumer Sciences (#5122)
- Music: Content and Instruction (#5114)
- Physical Education: Content and Design (#5095)
- Special Education: Core Knowledge & Mild to Moderate Applications (#5543)
- Technology Education (#5051)

Current passing scores on all content tests are listed on pages 3-4 of this Guide.

TRANSITION POLICY: On or after September 1, 2016, scores on any content-area assessment currently required for certification in Connecticut which meet the new passing standard (i.e., the MSSS Recommended Passing Standard), regardless of date of test administration, will be accepted to meet assessment requirements for Connecticut educator certification. Retired assessments are not subject to these passing standard changes.

Statutory Authority and Information

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Connecticut law requires that all educators hold a valid Connecticut certificate or permit to be employed in any local or regional public school, or approved private special education facility. Eligibility for certification is based on completion of requirements specific to the endorsement including, but not limited to:

- planned program/course work;
- assessments; and/or
- experiential requirements.

The Connecticut State Board of Education reviews and adopts Connecticut assessment requirements. For more information, see Sec. 10-145f of the *Connecticut General Statutes*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CONNECTICUT ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Web: www.ct.gov/sde/cert

E-mail: teacher.cert@ct.gov

Phone: 860-713-6969
(Noon – 4:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, excluding holidays)

Mail: Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification
P.O. Box 150471
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