
Teacher Licensure, Praxis Score Scale Changes, Policy

The Background:

For many years Tennessee has required newly licensed teachers to demonstrate subject-area content knowledge by means of a licensure exam. This is done to ensure that teachers have entry-level, minimal competency in the content area and to validate the mastery of licensure standards that were covered within the preparation program. The State Board of Education prescribes which tests are taken in the various subject areas and approves the passing scores for each of the licensure examinations.

Praxis Licensure testing requirements and passing scores are found in State Board Policy number 5.105.

Educational Testing Service (ETS) has undergone a number of test revisions which have resulted in updated versions of these exams with new code numbers and, in some cases, new titles. The new exams under consideration here include:

- 0051 – Technology Education
- 0095 – Physical Education: Content & Design
- 0135 – Art: Content & Analysis
- 0621 – Principles of Learning & Teaching (PLT): Early Childhood
- 0622 – Principles of Learning & Teaching (PLT): Grades K-6
- 0623 – Principles of Learning & Teaching (PLT): Grades 5-9
- 0624 – Principles of Learning & Teaching (PLT): Grades 7-12

To support the decision-making process for state departments of education with regards to establishing passing scores, or cut scores, for these Praxis assessments, research staff from Educational Testing Service (ETS) designed and conducted two multi-state standard setting studies for each exam or series of exams (PLT). The studies also collected content-related validity evidence to confirm the importance of the content specifications for entry-level teachers.

The standard setting studies involved two expert panels, comprised of teachers, administrators, and college faculty. The recommended cut scores for each panel, as well as the average cut score across the two panels, were provided to help state departments of education determine appropriate cut (or passing) scores.

Due to the number of tests involved with revisions this year, a chart has been attached with the changes in test number, test title, and recommendations for passing scores.

In addition, Educational Testing Service (ETS), the developers of the PRAXIS examinations, is gradually changing the test numbers on some examinations as well

as the score scale on their examinations to have a score range of 100-200 instead of 250-990. These adjusted score scales need to be reflected in the State Board Policy 5.105. At this time one test is being converted from the 250-990 scale to the 100-200 scale:

0921 – Geography

The score for this exam is provided by ETS so as to be the equivalent to the former passing score approved by the SBE of 580 on the old scale.

The Master Plan Connection:

This item supports the *Master Plan* by measuring the content knowledge of teachers as one way of gauging their effectiveness.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends that Policy 5.105 be adopted on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

Test Code/Passing Score Changes for 2011-2012

New Test Name & Praxis ID Number	Former Praxis Test ID Number	Current Score	Current Pass Rate	Multi-state Task Force Score	SDE Recommendation to SBE
0051 – Technology Education (CTE)	0050	580	84%	159	156
0095 – Physical Education	0091/0092	152/148	62%/98%	169	164
0135 – Art: Content & Analysis	0131/0132	155/140	81%/82%	161	157
0621 – PLT: PreK-3	0521	155	96%	157	155
0622 – PLT: K-6	0522	155	91%	160	158
0623 – PLT: 5-9	0523	154	83%	160	158
0624 – PLT: 7-12	0524	159	89%	157	155
Scale Score Changes...					
0921 – Geography	0920	580	87%	n/a	TBA

- Also, Test code number changes for all computer-delivered exams.