

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: E

Date: September 18, 2014

Title	First Review of Clarification of the Subtest Numbers for the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test		
Presenter	Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure		
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Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

Previous Review or Action:

Previous review and action. Specify date and action taken below:

Date: May 22, 2014

Action: Final Review

Action Requested:

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
X	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Goal 5: The approval of passing scores on the professional assessments supports the goal of highly qualified and effective educators in Virginia’s classrooms and schools.

Section 22.1-298.1 of the *Code of Virginia* requires that the Board of Education’s regulations “shall include requirements that a person seeking initial licensure: 1. Complete professional assessments as prescribed by the Board of Education;....”

The Board of Education prescribes the Praxis II (subject area content) tests as a professional teacher’s assessment requirement for initial licensure in Virginia. The Praxis II assessment currently required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in Early/Primary Education PreK-3 or Elementary Education PreK-6 is the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (5031) that consists of the following four subtests and passing scores approved by the Board:

Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (5031)		
Subtest Names	Subtest Numbers	Passing Scaled Scores
Reading and Language Arts	5032	165
Mathematics	5033	164
Social Studies	5034	155
Science	5035	159

Summary of Important Issues:

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) revised the Reading and Language Arts Subtest and the Mathematics Subtest of the Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (5031), and a multistate standard-setting study was conducted. The Social Studies and Science Subtests were not revised.

On May 22, 2014, the Board of Education approved the following passing scores for the revised Reading and Language Arts Subtest (5002) and the Mathematics Subtest (5003) of the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (5001) to become effective July 1, 2015, and approved the acceptance of candidates’ passing scores for these subtests if taken prior to July 1, 2015. To make a distinction between the two tests and the subtests, ETS changed the numbers of the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test and all subtests as follows:

Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (5001)		
Subtest Names	Subtest Numbers	Passing Scaled Scores
Reading and Language Arts	5002	157
Mathematics	5003	157
Social Studies	5004	155
Science	5005	159

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

Costs associated with the administration of Praxis II tests will be incurred by the Educational Testing Service. Prospective teachers are required to pay test fees.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Upon approval by the Board, school divisions and institutions of higher education will be notified.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and clarify the subtests required for the Elementary Education Multiple Subjects Test (as shown in the following chart) required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in Early/Primary Education PreK-3 or Elementary Education PreK-6, effective July 1, 2015.

Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (5001)		
Subtest Names	Subtest Numbers	Passing Scaled Scores
Reading and Language Arts	5002	157
Mathematics	5003	157
Social Studies	5004	155
Science	5005	159

Note: Virginia passing scores on any of the subtests of the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (5031) taken prior to July 1, 2015, may be accepted to meet the corresponding subtest above.

Rationale for Action:

The *Code of Virginia* requires that the Board of Education prescribe assessments for initial licensure. The action of the Board is to clarify the numbers of the subtests for the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test (5001), effective July 1, 2015. The passing scores for the subtests remain the same as previously approved by the Board.