

# Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



**Agenda Item:** A

**Date:** March 26, 2015

<b>Title</b>	First Review of the Prescribed Assessments for Licensure		
<b>Presenter</b>	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:**

Other. Specify below:

Licensure assessments were previously reviewed and approved by the Board of Education.

**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. **Regulations governing licensure** 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;...”

**Summary of Important Issues:**

Currently, the Virginia Board of Education requires the following licensure assessments:

- Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA)
- Praxis II: Specialty Area Tests

Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE) Test: Elementary and Special Education  
Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE) Test: Reading Specialist  
School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA)

Pursuant to the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*, all candidates who hold at least a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and who seek an initial Virginia teaching license must obtain passing scores on professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Board of Education. With the exception of the career switcher program that requires assessments as prerequisites, individuals must complete the professional teacher's assessments within the three-year validity of the initial provisional license. Candidates seeking a Technical Professional License, the International License, School Manager License, or the Pupil Personnel Services License are not required to take the professional teacher's assessments. Individuals who hold a valid out-of-state license (full credential with no deficiencies) and who have completed a minimum of three years of full-time, successful teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school (kindergarten through grade 12) in a state other than Virginia are exempted from the professional teacher's assessment requirements.

The Virginia Board of Education also has approved assessments for individuals seeking the reading specialist endorsement and the administration and supervision endorsement.

In recent years, revisions in assessments have resulted in the discontinuation of some tests and the approval of new tests. The attachment provides a comprehensive list of licensure assessments and passing scores. Dates of implementation are noted on the list. New tests previously approved by the Board to be implemented July 1, 2015, are included in the list. Standard-setting studies were conducted for the assessments that were previously presented to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure and the Virginia Board of Education.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

Costs associated with the administration of the VCLA will be incurred by the National Evaluation Group of Pearson. Costs associated with the administration of Praxis Specialty Area Tests, the RVE tests, and the SLLA will be incurred by the Educational Testing Service. Prospective teachers are required to pay test fees.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

The comprehensive list of licensure assessments will be posted on the Virginia Department of Education's Web page.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the attached comprehensive list of licensure assessments and pass scores.

**Rationale for Action:**

The Board of Education is required to prescribe assessments for licensure.

## **VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESCRIBED ASSESSMENTS FOR LICENSURE**

Pursuant to the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*, all candidates who hold at least a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and who seek an initial Virginia teaching license must obtain passing scores on professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Board of Education. With the exception of the career switcher program that requires assessments as prerequisites, individuals must complete the professional teacher's assessments within the three-year validity of the initial provisional license. Candidates seeking a Technical Professional License, the International License, School Manager License, or the Pupil Personnel Services License are not required to take the professional teacher's assessments. Individuals who hold a valid out-of-state license (full credential with no deficiencies) and who have completed a minimum of three years of full-time, successful teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school (kindergarten through grade 12) in a state other than Virginia are exempted from the professional teacher's assessment requirements.

The Virginia Board of Education also has approved assessments for individuals seeking the reading specialist endorsement and the administration and supervision endorsement.

### **Assessments Required for Initial Licensure**

The prescribed tests for Virginia for initial licensure are as follows:

#### **ACADEMIC SKILLS ASSESSMENT**

**Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment-VCLA**

#### **CONTENT ASSESSMENT**

**Praxis II** (if applicable) – Refer to Praxis II: Specialty Area Tests

#### **READING ASSESSMENT** [Required for the specific endorsement areas listed below.]

**Praxis Series Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE): Elementary and Special Education** -- A reading assessment [Reading for Virginia Educators: Elementary and Special Education-RVE is required for individuals seeking initial licensure in any of the following endorsements (teaching areas): Early/Primary Education preK-3, Elementary Education preK-6, Special Education-General Curriculum, Special Education-Hearing Impairments, and Special Education-Visual Impairments. [This assessment also may apply to those individuals with endorsements in Special Education-Emotional Disturbances, Special Education-Specific Learning Disabilities, and Special Education-Intellectual Disabilities who were advised under previous regulations to meet this assessment requirement for full licensure.]

### **Assessment Required for Individuals Seeking a Reading Specialist Endorsement**

**Praxis Series Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE): Reading Specialist**

### **Assessment Required for Individuals Seeking an Administration and Supervision Endorsement**

**School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA)**

**Assessments**

**VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT**

The Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) became effective January 1, 2006, for individuals seeking an initial Virginia license unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. Beginning November 1, 2013, the VCLA became available only through computer-based testing.

**PASSING SCORES: EFFECTIVE MARCH 22, 2006 to DECEMBER 31, 2013**

On March 22, 2006, the Virginia Board of Education approved passing scores for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). The scaled passing scores are 235 for the reading subtest, a score of 235 for the writing subtest, **or** a composite score of 470 for the assessment.

Writing Sub Test: 235  
 Reading Sub Test: 235  
**Composite Score: 470**

**PASSING SCORES: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014**

On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education approved new VCLA passing raw scores for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). Even though the scaled passing score remains the same, the score scale has been adjusted to apply the Board approved passing raw scores. As a result, the scaled passing scores are 235 for the reading subtest, a score of 235 for the writing subtest, **or** a composite score of 470 for the assessment.

Writing Sub Test: 235  
 Reading Sub Test: 235  
**Composite Score: 470**

Score reports for individuals who took the VCLA prior to January 1, 2014, will be accepted provided the candidate met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.

**PRAXIS II: SPECIALTY AREA TESTS**

The following tests are required for the noted endorsement (teaching specialty) areas for initial licensure unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. Individuals are required to satisfy the Specialty Area test(s) requirement for only one endorsement area, but it must match an endorsement area in which the initial licensure is granted. Please note that the list also includes tests to become effective July 1, 2015.

SPECIALTY AREA TEST	CURRENT VIRGINIA APPROVED TESTS	TEST CODE Praxis II test codes beginning with a "5" are computer-based tests.	PASSING SCORE	ENDORSEMENT AREA
<b>ART (Visual Arts):</b>				
Art: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2011)		(0133) <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	159	Visual Arts
Art: Content Knowledge (taken after 9/1/2011)		(0134) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	158	Visual Arts
Art: Content Knowledge (taken after 9/1/2011)	<b>X</b>	(5134) computer	158	Visual Arts
<b>BIOLOGY:</b>				
Biology: Content Knowledge		(0235) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	155	Biology
Biology: Content Knowledge	<b>X</b>	(5235) computer	155	Biology
<b>BRAILLE (Special Education-Visual Impairments):</b>				
Braille Proficiency (This test became effective 7/1/2011, except for teachers completing the approved Virginia Visual Impairments Consortium Program who were required to meet this effective 7/1/2012.)	<b>X</b>	(0631) paper	168	Special Education-Visual Impairments

SPECIALTY AREA TEST	CURRENT VIRGINIA APPROVED TESTS	TEST CODE Praxis II test codes beginning with a "5" are computer-based tests.	PASSING SCORE	ENDORSEMENT AREA
<b>BUSINESS (Business and Information Technology):</b>				
Business Education: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)		(0100) <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	590	Business and Information Technology
Business Education: Content Knowledge (taken after 9/1/2010)		(0101) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	157	Business and Information Technology
Business Education: Content Knowledge (taken after 9/1/2010)	X	(5101) computer	157	Business and Information Technology
<b>CHEMISTRY:</b>				
Chemistry: Content Knowledge		(0245) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	153	Chemistry
Chemistry: Content Knowledge	X	(5245) computer	153	Chemistry
<b>EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES:</b>				
Earth and Space Sciences: Content Knowledge		(0571) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	156	Earth Science
Earth and Space Sciences: Content Knowledge	X	(5571) computer	156	Earth Science
<b>ELEMENTARY EDUCATION:</b>				
Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (taken before 7/1/2014)*		(0014) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014 <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	143	Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (taken before 7/1/2014)		(5014) computer <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	143	Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031): <b>This test is required in Virginia 7/1/2014 through 6/30/2015. A passing score on each subtest is required. If a passing score is not obtained on each subtest, a subtest may be retaken as a stand-alone test. * [Score reports for individuals who took the Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (0014/5014) prior to July 1, 2014, will be accepted provided the candidate met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.]</b>				Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Subtest (5032): Reading and Language Arts (required 7/1/2014 through 6/30/2015)	X	(5032) computer	165	Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Subtest (5033): Mathematics (required 7/1/2014 through 6/30/2015)	X	(5033) computer	164	Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Subtest (5034): Social Studies (required 7/1/2014 through 6/30/2015)	X	(5034) computer	155	Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
Elementary Education Multiple Subjects Subtest (5035): Science (required 7/1/2014 through 6/30/2015)	X	(5035) computer	159	Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education PreK-6
Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001): <b>*This test is required in Virginia on and after 7/1/2015. A passing score on each subtest is required. If a passing score is not obtained on each subtest, a subtest may be retaken as a stand-alone test. [Score reports for individuals who took the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031) prior to July 1, 2015, will be accepted provided the candidate met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.]</b>				Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5002): Reading and Language Arts (required 7/1/2015)	In Virginia effective 7/1/2015*	(5002) computer	157	Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5003): Mathematics (required 7/1/2015)	In Virginia effective 7/1/2015*	(5003) computer	157	Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5004): Social Studies (required 7/1/2015)	In Virginia effective 7/1/2015*	(5004) computer	155	Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
Elementary Education Multiple Subjects (5005): Science (required 7/1/2015)	In Virginia effective 7/1/2015*	(5005) computer	159	Early/Primary Education preK-3; Elementary Education preK-6
<b>ENGLISH:</b>				
English Language, Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge (taken before January 1, 2014)		(0041) paper <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	172	English

SPECIALTY AREA TEST	CURRENT VIRGINIA APPROVED TESTS	TEST CODE Praxis II test codes beginning with a "5" are computer-based tests.	PASSING SCORE	ENDORSEMENT AREA
English Language, Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge (taken before January 1, 2014)		(5041) computer <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	172	English
English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (taken after January 1, 2014)	X	(5038) computer	167	English
<b>FRENCH:</b>				
French: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)		(0173) <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	169	French
French: World Language (taken after 9/1/2010)	X	(5174) computer	163	French
<b>GERMAN:</b>				
German: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)		(0181) <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	162	German
German: World Language (taken after 9/1/2010)	X	(5183) computer	163	German
<b>FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES:</b>				
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken before 9/1/2008)		(0120) <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	550	Family and Consumer Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken after 9/1/2008)*		(0121) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	150	Family and Consumer Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken after 9/1/2008)*	X	(5121) computer	150	Family and Consumer Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences (required 7/1/2015) *[Score reports for individuals who took the Family and Consumer Sciences (0121/5121) prior to July 1, 2015, will be accepted provided the candidate met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.]	In Virginia effective 7/1/2015	(5122) computer	153	Family and Consumer Sciences
<b>HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION:</b>				
Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge*		(0856) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	151	Health and Physical Education PreK-12
Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge*	X	(5856) computer	151	Health and Physical Education PreK-12
Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (required effective 7/1/2015)  *[Score reports for individuals who took the Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (0856/5856) prior to July 1, 2015, will be accepted provided the candidate met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.]	In Virginia effective 7/1/2015	(5857) computer	160	Health and Physical Education PreK-12
<b>MARKETING EDUCATION:</b>				
Marketing Education (taken before 9/1/2008)		(0560) <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	570	Marketing Education
Marketing Education (taken after 9/1/2008)		(0561) <b>not current test in Virginia</b> The paper-delivered version was available until June 7, 2014. An accommodation may have been made by ETS for individuals who needed to take this assessment between June 8, 2014, and October 5, 2014.	147	Marketing Education
Marketing Education	X	5561 computer [Available October 6, 2014]	147	Marketing Education

SPECIALTY AREA TEST	CURRENT VIRGINIA APPROVED TESTS	TEST CODE Praxis II test codes beginning with a "5" are computer-based tests.	PASSING SCORE	ENDORSEMENT AREA
<b>MATHEMATICS:</b>				
Mathematics: Content Knowledge (taken before January 1, 2014)		(0061) paper <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	147	Mathematics
Mathematics: Content Knowledge (taken before January 1, 2014)		(5061) computer <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	147	Mathematics
Mathematics: Content Knowledge (taken after January 1, 2014)	X	(5161) computer	160	Mathematics
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL-ENGLISH:</b>				
Middle School English/Language Arts (taken before January 1, 2014)		(0049) paper <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	164	Middle Education English
Middle School English/Language Arts (taken before January 1, 2014)		(5049) computer <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	164	Middle Education English
Middle School English/Language Arts (taken after January 1, 2014)	X	(5047) computer	164	Middle Education English
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL-MATHEMATICS:</b>				
Middle School Mathematics (taken before January 1, 2014)		(0069) paper <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	163	Middle Education Mathematics
Middle School Mathematics (taken after January 1, 2014)	X	(5169) computer	165	Middle Education Mathematics
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL-SCIENCE:</b>				
Middle School Science*	X	(0439) paper	162	Middle Education Science
Middle School Science (required effective 7/1/2015)  *[Score reports for individuals who took the Middle School Science (0439) prior to July 1, 2015, will be accepted provided the candidate met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.]	In Virginia effective 7/1/2015	(5440) computer	150	Middle Education Science
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL-SOCIAL STUDIES:</b>				
Middle School Social Studies		(0089) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	160	Middle Education History and Social Sciences
Middle School Social Studies	X	(5089) computer	160	Middle Education History and Social Sciences
<b>MUSIC (Music-Vocal Choral or Music-Instrumental):</b>				
Music: Content Knowledge		(0113) paper <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	160	Music-Vocal/Choral or Music-Instrumental
Music: Content Knowledge	X	(5113) computer	160	Music-Vocal/Choral or Music-Instrumental
<b>PHYSICS:</b>				
Physics: Content Knowledge		(0265) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	147	Physics
Physics: Content Knowledge	X	(5265) computer	147	Physics
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES (History and Social Sciences):</b>				
Social Studies: Content Knowledge		(0081) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	161	History and Social Science
Social Studies: Content Knowledge	X	(5081) computer	161	History and Social Science
<b>SPANISH:</b>				
Spanish: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)		(0191) <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	161	Spanish
Spanish: World Language (taken after 9/1/2010)	X	(5195) computer	168	Spanish
<b>TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION:</b>				
Technology Education (taken before 9/1/2011)		(0050) <b>not current test in Virginia</b>	610	Technology Education
Technology Education (taken after 9/1/2011)		(0051) paper discontinued on June 7, 2014	162	Technology Education
Technology Education	X	(5051) computer [Available July 2014]	162	Technology Education

## READING FOR VIRGINIA EDUCATORS

### **Praxis Series Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE): Elementary and Special Education (5306 computer-based) Praxis Series Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE): Reading Specialist (5304 computer-based)**

Reading assessments are prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education for individuals seeking the following endorsements unless the exemption criteria are met:

- (1) an initial Virginia license with the following endorsements: Early/Primary Education preK-3, Elementary Education preK-6, Special Education-General Curriculum, Special Education-Hearing Impairments, and Special Education-Visual Impairments; or
- (2) an endorsement as a reading specialist.

Effective July 1, 2011, the Virginia Department of Education implemented changes in the required reading assessments for certain endorsements. For teachers seeking an initial license with endorsements in Early/Primary Education preK-3, Elementary Education preK-6, Special Education – General Curriculum, Special Education – Hearing Impairments, or Special Education – Visual Impairments, the required reading assessment is the **Praxis Series Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE): Elementary and Special Education Teachers Assessment (0306 paper\* or 5306 computer-based)**. On May 19, 2011, the Board of Education set the passing score for this assessment at **157**. **\*Beginning June 8, 2014, the RVE became available only via computer-based testing. Paper-based test administrations are no longer given.**

Effective July 1, 2011, the required assessment for teachers seeking an endorsement as a **reading specialist is the Praxis Series Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE): Reading Specialist Assessment (0304 paper\* or 5304 computer-based)**. On May 19, 2011, the Board of Education set the passing score for this assessment at **162**. **\*Beginning June 8, 2014, the RVE became available only via computer-based testing. Paper-based test administrations are no longer given.**

Individuals who were previously cited for the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) or Virginia Reading Assessment for Reading Specialists (VRA for Reading Specialists) and who have not yet completed these tests are now required to take the new assessments. The VRA and VRA for Reading Specialists are no longer available.

**VRA (no longer available) Taken Prior to June 30, 2011:** Even though the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) and Virginia Reading Assessment for Reading Specialists (VRA for Reading Specialists) have not been administered since June 30, 2011, the passing scores on the VRA assessments will be accepted from individuals who took the tests prior to June 30, 2011. The cut score for the Virginia Reading Assessments for elementary and special education teachers was 235 and the cut score for reading specialists was 245, effective July 1, 2006.

## SCHOOL LEADERS LICENSURE ASSESSMENT (SLLA) – TEST CODE 6011

Effective July 1, 2005, the Board of Education approved the use of the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) for individuals seeking an administration and supervision endorsement.

On January 14, 2010, the Board of Education approved a cut score of **163** for the SLLA (test code 1011). This test was administered for the last time in a paper format in September 2011. **Effective January 2012, the SLLA is available in a computer-delivered format only. The test code is 6011, and the cut score is 163.**

**Previous Version of SLLA (no longer available):** Virginia will continue to accept passing scores on the old version of the SLLA (test code 1010) that was last administered in Virginia in October 2009. The cut score for the SLLA test code 1010 was 165.