

**Praxis –Test Changes**

Subject	New Test	Old Test*	New Cut Score	Name of License	State Review Date	Arkansas Launch Date
Early Childhood: Content Knowledge	5025	5022	156	Elementary Education (P-4)	March 2016	9/1/2016
English to Speakers of Other Languages	5362	5361	155	ESL (K-12)	March 2016	9/1/2016
Principles of Learning and Teaching: Early Childhood	5621	New license	157	First time EC/SPED Integrated (B-K)	N/A	9/1/2016

*\*The Office of Educator Licensure (OEL) will accept the old test for three years if taken before September 1, 2016. The last date OEL will accept the old test is August 31, 2019. Old tests taken after September 1, 2016, will not be accepted.*

*The [Praxis website](#) is the most up to date source for IHEs and candidates to ensure the correct tests are being used.*

**Commissioner’s Memos**

The ADE issues regulatory guidance and informational notifications to school districts in the form of a "Commissioner's Memo." These memos are posted online as soon as they are approved for release. They are posted [here](#). You can also subscribe at this site.

Commissioner memos issued for Licensure/Educator Preparation since the June newsletter include:

<a href="#">LIC-17-001 Optional Assessment for Educators to Demonstrate Content Knowledge for Arkansas Qualified Teacher (AQT) Rules</a>
<a href="#">LIC-17-004 New Online License Renewal System Application and Payment</a>
<a href="#">LIC-17-003 Assigning Mentors to Novice Teachers and Beginning Administrators</a>
<a href="#">LIC-17-008 Beginning Administrator Mentor Update Training 2016-2017</a>
<a href="#">LIC-17-006 Beginning Administrator Mentor Make-up Training 2016-2017</a>
<a href="#">LIC-17-007 Beginning Administrator Induction Make-up Training 2016-2017</a>
<a href="#">LIC-17-009 Approved Educator Preparation Programs at Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education(IHE)</a>
<a href="#">LIC-17-010 Licensure Exceptions and AQT</a>
<a href="#">LIC-17-011 Background Check Fee Change, Consent Form, and Fingerprinting Requirements</a>

**Key Points**

Key Points is a monthly video produced by the Arkansas Department of Education to inform the public of key points in the progress of K-12 education. Visit the [Key Points Website](#) for current and past videos. Be sure to share with your candidates, as these videos are a great way for your educator candidates to keep up with education happenings in Arkansas.

### **Educator Preparation Program Approval**

The Office of Educator Preparation is accepting proposals from IHEs for new programs or any revised programs of study. Proposals from public IHEs must first be submitted to [lillian.williams@adhe.edu](mailto:lillian.williams@adhe.edu) for new degree or certificate programs or changes to degrees or certificates. An inventory of AHECB approved degree programs at all public IHEs can be found [here](#). The ADHE website has been updated and all information and forms related to ADHE program proposals can be found [here](#). Proposals to revise programs and all proposals from independent IHEs should be sent directly to [Joan.Luneau@arkansas.gov](mailto:Joan.Luneau@arkansas.gov) at the ADE. Information and forms for proposals to be submitted directly to the ADE can be found [here](#).

### **Educator Competencies**

This summer we have convened committees to revise the Math, grades (K-6); Math, grades (4-8); and Math grades (7-12) competencies. Math revisions are necessary due to the implementation of the new K-12 Arkansas Mathematics Standards. Implementation of these new K-12 standards may begin as early as the 2016-2017 school year and are expected to be fully implemented in the 2017-2018 school year. The K-12 Arkansas English Language Arts Standards are currently in development, and we will revise the ELA competencies for all levels once these are complete. We will also work with the Arkansas Department of Career Education to revise the Adult Education, P-S competencies.

The revised Math competencies for educator preparation programs will be posted this fall.

### **Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS) Competencies**

A set of competencies for TESS alignment of Educator Preparation Programs has been posted here. A corresponding matrix is also available. Educator preparation programs now have a designated TESS coordinator that will be our point of contact. The coordinators will be responsible for ensuring faculty are trained and maintaining training records. The ADE will also host a TESS update meeting for all coordinators.

### **Financial Aid for Teachers**

[The State Teacher Education Program \(STEP\)](#) provides assistance for eligible teachers with repayment of \$3,000 a year of outstanding federal student loans. The program is for a licensed teacher who teaches in a public school located in a [geographical](#) area of the state designated as having a critical shortage of teachers or in a subject matter area designated as having a critical shortage of teachers. There may be additional loan repayment for federal student loans in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per year for each year for minority educators teaching in critical shortage districts or subject areas. STEP recipients must re-apply each year and meet all eligibility requirements each year. The total term of federal student loan repayment shall not exceed three years. The application deadline is June 1st each application year.

[The Teacher Opportunity Program \(TOP\)](#) offers tuition reimbursement grants to Arkansas teachers and administrators. Teachers and administrators may apply for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses paid for up to six (6) college credit hours completed for each academic year, not to exceed \$3,000. Applicants must be an Arkansas resident twelve (12) months prior to the application deadline and a citizen of the United States or permanent resident alien. They must have and maintain a current teacher and/or administrator license with the Arkansas Department of Education and be employed as a classroom teacher or administrator in Arkansas and declare intention to continue such employment in Arkansas. Applicants must be enrolled in an approved IHE in Arkansas and enrolled in a college level course(s) directly related to employment. The application deadline is June 1st each academic year.

### **Intern placement**

Field experience, internship, and teaching placements for candidates in traditional and nontraditional programs of study for educator licensure “shall not include priority schools, public schools or school districts in academic distress, or school districts under administrative takeover.” Candidates already in place when a school is added to a list are not affected. It is the responsibility of the Educator Preparation programs to communicate with partnership schools as their status may change. Under extreme circumstances an approval can be granted by the ADE to place candidates in a listed school. The Placement Exception form has been updated and is available [here](#).

The currently posted lists can be found at the links below:

[Academic Distressed Schools List – April 2016](#)

[Academic Distressed Districts List – April 2016](#)

[Priority Schools List - 2015](#)

### **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

Be sure to check out the latest on ESSA [here](#) and how you can participate in upcoming Community Listening Forums.

### **State Board of Education (SBE) Information**

Information regarding the State Board of Education can be found [here](#). Agendas for upcoming meetings and documentation from previous meetings can provide valuable information for all involved in educator preparation. Live streaming is also available on meeting days. The next scheduled meeting of the SBE is October 13-14, 2016.

## **Growing the Teacher Pipeline – Innovations in Educator Preparation**

### **Teacher Recruitment Events**

This year’s *Become an Arkansas Teacher* event is scheduled for Monday, October 10 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Little Rock from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. The event is a come and go for attendees.

Other events will be held on a smaller scale at the following Educational Service Cooperatives (ESC) this fall:

October 24, 2016, at Southeast ESC                      4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

October 25, 2016, at Southwest ESC                      5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

October 27, 2016, at Great Rivers ESC                      5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

November 1, 2016, at Southcentral ESC                      3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

On December 6 the ADE will host a statewide conference for juniors and seniors in the Teacher Cadets program and the Orientation to Teaching classes through Department of Career Education. The conference will be a chance for the high school students to explore their options for pathways to the educator workforce.

### **Teacher Cadets**

The Arkansas Teacher Cadets Programs is a nationally recognized program for high schools students who are interested in teaching as a career. Information on the program is available [here](#). The program has been

growing in our state, and this fall there are 38 high schools participating in the program. The following are IHE partners for the program:

University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
University of Arkansas at Monticello  
Arkansas Tech University  
University of Arkansas Community College at Hope  
National Park College  
Arkansas State University  
University of Central Arkansas  
Southern Arkansas University  
Henderson State University  
Arkansas State University Mid-South  
Rich Mountain Community College  
University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville  
Northwest Arkansas Community College

### **Project MAESTRO Pilot**

The University of Arkansas (UA) College of Education and Health Professions is implementing a pilot of Project MAESTRO: Multilingual Arkansas Educators for Students Today and TomorROw. MAESTRO is an innovative, primarily on-site, enhanced “2 + 2” delivery program where three targeted bilingual, bicultural paraprofessional classroom instructional assistants serving in Springdale schools will be released during part of their work week to take college classes, earn a bachelor’s degree, and become fully licensed teachers within three years.

MAESTRO, “teacher” in Spanish, reflects the demographics of the district having the largest number of English Learners (ELs) in the state with 9,561 accounting for 45 percent of its total student enrollment. By “growing their own, alongside their own,” the Springdale District will increase the number of high quality, bilingual, bicultural licensed teachers from multiple backgrounds that are reflective of the language and cultural diversity of the student population.

Project MAESTRO staff will utilize principal recommendations and college transcripts for the selection of participants. Pilot candidates will have already completed 60 undergraduate hours or more that can be applied toward their new teaching license. As MAESTRO candidates complete their degree, they will be considered for hiring in the Springdale District. Participating school principals have already commented that they wish to hire the MAESTRO candidate if they have a vacancy.

Project MAESTRO is based on research that shows the quality of the teacher has one of the largest impacts on student achievement. By training bilingual/bicultural paraprofessionals in pedagogy and best practices for EL students and supporting their implementation of the best practices with coaching, Project Maestro believes they will positively impact EL student achievement in Northwest Arkansas.

For more information, contact Dr. Janet Penner-Williams at [jpenner@uark.edu](mailto:jpenner@uark.edu).

### **University Residency Program for Paraprofessionals**

The University Residency Program at the University of Arkansas at Monticello provides an alternative route for paraprofessionals to become licensed in K-6 Elementary Education, 4-8 Middle Level Education, or 7-12 Secondary Education at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. The program partners with school districts that are high poverty and/or high minority.

Paraprofessionals with at least three years experience and a letter of recommendation from the district and/or school, may apply for admission to the program. Once they have completed a non-licensure education degree (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Education Studies – BSES or Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning – BSTL), candidates will be admitted to a two semester post-baccalaureate Teacher Residency program in which resident candidates will be provisionally licensed in K-6 Elementary, Middle Childhood, or a 7-12 content area. Upon completion of this two-semester residency and meeting state requirements for standard licensure, candidates will be recommended for a standard teaching license. For more information, contact Ms. Kim Level, UAM School of Education Partnership Coordinator. Her email is [level@uamont.edu](mailto:level@uamont.edu). More information can also be found [here](#).

### **e-STEM Residency Program**

[eSTEM Public Charter Schools](#) in Little Rock have the e-STEM Residency Program. It is an intensive training program for aspiring teachers with degrees in the STEM fields, who have had no formal teacher training. The teachers make a three year commitment to this program that features a full immersion experience in an authentic school environment. Intensive professional development, book studies, and interaction with classroom students in various instructional settings are the foundations of the program. This program allows the development of a true professional learning community that extends to all educators in the eSTEM system. It also provides the opportunity to develop a teacher preparation and induction model that can be replicated in a variety of school settings. For more information, contact Dr. Teri Cox, STEM Residents Coordinator. Her email is [teri.cox@estemlr.net](mailto:teri.cox@estemlr.net).

### **Upcoming Meetings**

September 20 – CAEP Agreement Working Group – ADE

October 9-11 – Arkansas Community Colleges Conference, Hot Springs

November 2 – Chief Academic Officers and Deans - Pulaski Technical Business Center, Little Rock

November TBD – Review of Pedagogy tests for Foreign Languages