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January 2016 Newsletter

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## Educator Licensure

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Dear Educators,

Greetings from the Educator Licensure Unit. This is the first edition of the Educator Licensure Newsletter. Information regarding licensure updates, trainings, events, and important dates to remember will be provided. Please encourage your colleagues to update their licensure information at <https://adeaels.arkansas.gov/AelsWeb/Account/TeacherLogin.aspx> to ensure future newsletter delivery.

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### **Praxis –Upcoming Test Changes**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Current Version</b>	<b>New Version</b>	<b>New Cut Score</b>	<b>State Review Date</b>	<b>Arkansas Launch Date</b>
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	5361	5362	TBD	Spring 2015	9/1/2016 <sup>1</sup>
Early Childhood (P-4)	5022	5025	TBD	Spring 2015	9/1/2016
American Sign Language PI	0632	0634	170	12/2/2015	1/1/2016

<sup>1</sup>2016 is first ETS administration date

The Praxis website is the most up to date source for IHEs and candidates to ensure the correct tests are being used. <http://www.ets.org/praxis/ar/requirements>

### **New Licensure Areas:**

#### **Computer Science, Grades 4-12**

Act 187 requires each public high school and public charter school to offer a course in computer science. Computer Science competencies have been posted and Computer Science has been added as a 4-12 licensure content area. It is now available as an endorsement to a current license by testing out. The next testing window is February 1-13, 2016. More information about Computer Science in Arkansas can be found [here](#).

#### **Special Education Resource Areas**

October 2015, changes in Licensure rules included the addition of two new Special Education licensure areas. Programs of study for the Special Education Resource Area endorsements are now being

submitted to ADE for approval. These programs of study will prepare an already licensed teacher in ELA, Math, and Science K-6, 4-8, or 7-12 to teach students with exceptionalities in resource, inclusion, and co-teaching settings. Indirect services could also be provided by individuals with this license.

### **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 to receive Commissioner's Memo updates.

Recent commissioner memos issued for Licensure include:

<a href="#">LIC-16-011 Licensure Test for new Age 3-4 Special Education Endorsement</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-012 Final Rule: Rules Governing Educator Licensure</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-013 Educator Licensure System Update Profile Email</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-015 School District Highly Qualified Teacher Plan 2015-2016</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-016 Background Checks for Employment, Licensure, and Preservice Teachers</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-017 Final Rules Effective December 28, 2015: T.E.S.S., L.E.A.D.S., and Background Checks</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-020 Beginning Administrator Enhancement Seminar, March 7, 2016</a>
<a href="#">LIC-16-019 TESS and LEADS Law and Process, Teachscape, and BloomBoard Trainings for Administrators</a>

\*Commissioner's Memo LIC-16-016 – Background Checks for Employment, Licensure, and Preservice Teachers <http://adecm.arkansas.gov/ViewApprovedMemo.aspx?id=1753>

This CM will provide you with new information concerning changes in the law and rules concerning background checks. The highlights include:

- Effective July 22, 2016, all criminal history background checks shall be **initiated** online
- The **new consent form** must be filled out and signed by both the employer and the applicant
- After July 1, 2016, **fingerprinting** must be done by livescan

### **Dates and Events to Remember**

February-March TESS/LEADS Spring Support Training for Administrators at the Coops

February 11 State Board Meeting

February 15 Last day for Project Directors to pair Novice Teachers with a mentor

March 7 Beginning Administrator Enhancement Seminar at Heifer International, Little Rock: Featured presenter, Justin Baeder of the Principal Center

March 7-8 Dyslexia Therapy Conference, Hot Springs

April 16, ADE Spring Educator Job Fair: 10:00-2:00 at Heifer Village in Little Rock