

Praxis –Test Changes

Subject	Current Version	New Version	New Cut Score	State Review Date	Arkansas Launch Date
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	5361	5362	TBD	TBD	9/1/2016 ¹
American Sign Language	NA	0632	2.5	9/17/2014	Fall TBD

¹2016 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>

Candidate Placements

Field experience and internship 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.” This includes all candidate placements for future field experiences. Candidates already in place when a school is added to a list are not affected. Under extreme circumstances an approval can be granted by the Department of Licensure to place candidates in a listed school. Complete the placement form [here](#).

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

[Academic Distressed Schools List - February 2015](#)

[2015 Priority Schools List](#)

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 November 2-14, 2015. More information about computer science in Arkansas can be found [here](#).

There are currently no programs of study available at Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs).

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 since the February newsletter include:

LIC-15-037 APPEL Late Summer Academy 2015
LIC-16-001 ArkansasIDEAS Professional Development Accounts

LIC-16-002 ADE Emergency Rules Governing Ed. Licensure; Proposed Rules Governing Educator Licensures
LIC-16-003 ADE Rules Governing Educator Mentoring Programs
LIC-16-004 Out-of-Country Teachers/Visas
LIC-16-005 Induction Project Director Update Training 2015-2016
LIC-16-006 Bloomboard University Leadership Institute
LIC-16-007 Beginning Administrator Induction and Mentor Make-up Training 2015-2016
LIC-16-008 Public Comment Period for ADE Rules Governing Background Checks; ADE Rules Governing TESS; and the Rules Governing LEADS
LIC-16-009 Waiver Request Reminder

Educator Preparation Program Approval

The Educator Preparation Section is continuing to accept proposals from IHEs for new programs or any revised programs of study. Proposals from public IHES must be submitted to Lillian.Williams@adhe.edu for new programs only. The ADHE website has been updated and all information and forms related to programs proposals can be found [here](#). Proposals to revise programs and all proposals from independent IHEs should be sent directly to Heather.Newsam@arkansas.gov at the ADE. Information and forms for proposals to be submitted directly to the ADE can be found [here](#).

Equitable Access

The ADE’s Equitable Access to Excellent Educators plan was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on June 1, 2015. The purpose of the required plan was “to ensure poor and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers”. Arkansas was recognized for being one of the first states to have their plan approved by the U.S. Department of Education. The announcement is available [here](#). An [Equitable Access Page](#) has been added to the ADE website and contains the plan and other related information. The page will be updated as the ADE will continue to work with stakeholder groups during the implementation phase of the plan.

Science Licensure Changes

As a result of the deletion of the Praxis test for Physical Science, programs for Physical Science License will be discontinued in August 2016. Candidates enrolled prior to that date will be allowed to complete the program for Physical Science licensure by taking the Chemistry or Physics test. Proposals for revisions to Physical Science programs should be submitted by February 1, 2016 for fall implementation.

The adoption of the Arkansas Science Standards for grades K-4 and 5-8 was approved last spring. The K-4 standards are set to be implemented in 2016-2017 and the 5-8 in 2017-2018. K-6 and 4-8 competencies for Educator Preparation programs have been aligned with the Arkansas Standards. The Arkansas 9-12 Science Standards Committee will present a draft of the new high school science courses this semester that will be implemented in fall 2018. We will work with the IHEs that have programs to ensure they are aligned to prepare teachers for the courses.

Become an Arkansas Teacher

The ADE has been working to promote all the different routes to licensure in Arkansas. A new [video](#) is available on the website as well as an interactive [information page](#). The ADE is sponsoring an event at the Benton Event Center on Tuesday, November 10 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. This event is for anyone interested in learning more about how to become a teacher in Arkansas. Go [here](#) for more information and to register for the event.

Teacher Cadets Arkansas

The Arkansas Teacher Cadets Program is a nationally recognized teacher recruitment program aimed at attracting the best and brightest high school students to the teaching profession. The program provides a curriculum based, hands-on approach educating students regarding the requirements to become a successful teacher and enabling students to put their knowledge to work through a classroom internship. The mission of the program is to encourage high performing students who possess exemplary interpersonal and leadership skills to consider teaching as a career. The Teacher Cadets Program provides the opportunity for schools and districts to recruit homegrown educators and opens a gateway for these students to return to their communities as education professionals. Teacher Cadets is a rigorous college-level course. For a student to be eligible to enroll in the Teacher Cadets course, candidates must have at least a 3.0 GPA/GPR on a 4-point scale.

Arkansas schools participating in the Teacher Cadet Program include Conway, Marion, Lonoke, Warren, Hamburg, Paris, Clarksville, Southside(independence County), and Jonesboro.

For more information and a point of contact, visit the [Teacher Cadets Program website](#).

Incentives for Teachers in High Priority Districts

We had several requests for information regarding High Priority Bonuses. The rules for these incentives can be found [here](#).

ArkansasIDEAS and Arkansas Educator Licensure System(AELS)

ArkansasIDEAS now requires verification with a number from AELS for new account creation. For candidates who do not have an AELS number, they can still access content for required professional development such as Mandated Reporter Child Maltreatment Training, Parental Involvement, Dyslexia Professional Awareness, etc. at <http://ideas.aetn.org/teaching-resources/video> These resources do not contain assessments and awarding credit for viewing these videos is solely at the discretion of individual institutions. For those pre-service educators who are not in the AELS system, the university or school district may provide the professional development through these videos.

Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators

A new training presentation for The Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators is available [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings

September 30 – Chief Academic Officers and Deans - Pulaski Technical Business Center, Little Rock

November TBD – Meeting for Licensure Officers and Alternative-Route Master’s Degree Programs