

**Praxis –Test Changes**

Subject	Current Version	New Version	New Cut Score	State Review Date	Arkansas Launch Date
Early Childhood (for P-4 licensure) <sup>1</sup>	5022	5025	NA	NA	9/1/2016
Elem Ed (K-6) – Math Subtest	5033	5003	157	9/18/2014	9/1/2015
Elem Ed (K-6) – Reading Language Arts Subtest	5032	5002	157	9/18/2014	9/1/2015
Elem Ed (K-6) – Science Subtest	5035	5005	159	NA	9/1/2015
Elem Ed (K-6) – Social Studies Subtest	5034	5004	155	NA	9/1/2015
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	5361	5362	TBD	TBD	9/1/2016 <sup>2</sup>
Family Consumer Sciences	5121	5122	153	9/18/2014	9/1/2015
Chemistry	NA	5245	150	4/18/2014	9/1/2015
Computer Science	NA	5651	171	8/12/2015	6/1/2015
Physics	NA	5265	135	9/11/2014	9/1/2015
American Sign Language	NA	0632	2.5	9/17/2014	Fall TBD

<sup>1</sup>Only for candidates enrolled in P-4 prior to Fall 2015.

<sup>2</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>

**Other Praxis Updates**

- Elementary Education (5001 Series) is now available in every testing window.
- Praxis test fees increased on June 1, 2015. New fees can be viewed [here](#).
- A continuous test initiative for multiple-choice tests is being rolled out this fall. It is expected that 80% of test volume will be in place by 2017-2018.

**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](#)

[Priority Schools List – November 2014](#)

### **Dyslexia Endorsement**

Dyslexia (K-12) has been added as an exception area endorsement. The license will require a completed program of study, and until a content specific Dyslexia assessment is available, a current Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT).

- Programs at IHEs that have been approved and will start in Fall 2015 include:  
Harding
- Additional programs currently under review include:  
Arkansas State University  
Henderson State University  
University of Central Arkansas  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
University of Arkansas

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

HB 1183 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 first testing window is June 15-27, and the test has been added to the August 10-22 testing window. More information about computer science in Arkansas, including summer professional development opportunities for teachers, can be found [here](#).

### **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 available for school districts as well as the general public and are posted [here](#).

Commissioner memos issued from Licensure since the February newsletter include:

LIC-15-016 ADE Emergency Licensure Rules	LIC-15-027 New Praxis Tests - ASL and Chemistry; TOEFL requirement
LIC-15-017 Reduced Fees for Background Checks	LIC-15-028 New Praxis Test – Comp Sci
LIC-15-018 TESS and LEADS Templates	LIC-15-029 TESS Statute Changes
LIC-15-019 Grant Proposal for APPEL	LIC-15-030 Ed Prep Performance Reports
LIC-15-020 Critical Shortage Areas	LIC-15-031 Legislative Changes
LIC-15-021 TESS and LEADS Focus Groups	LIC-15-032 Equitable Access Plan
LIC-15-022 National Board Regional Orientation	LIC-15-033 Automatic Renewal
LIC-15-023 TEACHSCAPE Registration for BAs	LIC-15-034 Praxis Price Increase
LIC-15-024 Induction and Mentor Training for BAs	LIC-15-035 Comp Sci Assessment Reimbursement
LIC-15-025 Programs for Dyslexia Therapist	LIC-15-036 Waiver Request Form Update
LIC-15-026 TESS and LEADS Training	

### **Educator Preparation Program Approval**

The Educator Preparation Section is continuing to accept proposals from IHEs for new programs or revised programs of study in compliance with the November 2013 changes in licensure. Beginning in fall 2015, all programs must comply with these November 2013 changes. Programs will no longer be able to accept candidates into the affected programs after spring 2015. Affected programs will be removed from the approved programs matrix in August 2015.

As of June 1, 2015, proposals from public IHES must be submitted to [Lillian.Williams@adhe.edu](mailto:Lillian.Williams@adhe.edu) for new programs only. Proposals to revise programs and all proposals from independent IHEs can be sent directly to [Heather.Newsam@arkansas.gov](mailto:Heather.Newsam@arkansas.gov) at the ADE.

### **Educational Examiner**

The Educator Preparation Program Section has received several inquiries regarding Educational Examiner programs of study. Arkansas currently has no approved programs. We encourage IHEs to explore options towards creating programs.

### **Equitable Access**

The ADE's Equitable Access to Excellent Educators plan was submitted to the US 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". The plan is available [here](#). The ADE will continue to work with stakeholder groups as we transition to the implementation phase of the plan.

### **Educator Preparation Program Reports and Audits**

The 2015 Educator Preparation Program Reports (EPPRs) have been posted. They are available at <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/eppr/StatewideReports.aspx>

The Professional Licensure Standards Board has created a task force in response to its legal obligation to review the educator preparation program audits. The task force has been meeting and is working to make recommendations for various components of the audit system.

### **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. They will have the option of the Chemistry or Physics test. Now is the time for IHEs to revise Physical Science licensure programs. Physics and Chemistry are now available as an endorsement to a current license by testing out.

The adoption of the Arkansas K-12 Science Standards for grades K-4 and 5-8 was approved last week. 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 be writing new high school science courses this summer that will be implemented in Fall 2018.

More information is available at [here](#).

**Upcoming Meetings**

Wednesday August 12, 2015 – Computer Science Praxis State Review – Pulaski Tech West