
Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy 5.105

The Background:

To become a licensed educator in Tennessee, state law and State Board rules require certain individuals to demonstrate both content and pedagogical competencies through assessments. The State Board's Professional Assessments Policy 5.105 outlines these assessment requirements.

The Professional Assessments Policy currently requires individuals who are enrolled in a state-board approved post-baccalaureate preparation program with a job-embedded clinical practice to complete the performance-based pedagogical assessment (edTPA). These educators are serving as teacher-of-record and are evaluated on their performance both from an assistant principal or principal as well as an assigned school-based mentor. In addition, Educator Preparation Providers have expressed ongoing logistical challenges with implementing edTPA while an individual is enrolled in a job-embedded preparation program. As such, State Board staff is recommending that the edTPA requirement be dropped for educators enrolled in all state-board approved, post-baccalaureate preparation programs with a job-embedded clinical practice, beginning with educators applying for a license on Sept. 1, 2023.

In addition, current State Board rules allow prospective educators who are enrolling in a post-baccalaureate preparation program with a job-embedded clinical practice to obtain a license to teach based on demonstrating a major in the content area for which they are seeking endorsement (e.g. Mathematics, English, Science etc.). Because these educators have extensive education in their content area prior to enrolling in a teacher preparation program, State Board staff is proposing to eliminate the requirement that they submit qualifying scores on content assessments prior to renewing or advancing the practitioner license, beginning on Sept. 1, 2023. These individuals would still be required to complete an approved preparation program prior to renewing or advancing the practitioner license.

Lastly, the following revisions are proposed to improve clarity and address omissions or errors:

1. Clarification regarding which licensure pathways require completion of a pedagogical assessment for licensure issuance.
2. Correction of test codes for the Middle Grades Mathematics 6-8 assessments.
3. Addition of language that was inadvertently omitted regarding the test title for educators seeking an endorsement in Other World Languages.

Between first and final reading, board staff obtained feedback from stakeholders on the proposed revisions to assessment requirements for licensure. As a result of this feedback, we have made the following additions:

1. Shifted the date of implementation of elimination of specialty area content assessments and pedagogical assessments for select educators from Sept. 1, 2023 to June 1, 2023 to capture

educators seeking to obtain, renew, or advance a license prior to Aug. 31, 2023. Virtually all stakeholders who provided feedback indicated they would be in favor of an earlier implementation date.

2. Expanded the specialty area content areas where a content assessment is not required to include educators who obtain a major in the content area and have completed a state board-approved preparation program. This proposal seeks to create equity between licensure pathways for educators who have deep training in their content area.
3. Specified which endorsements and assessments are included in the recommendation to eliminate specialty area content assessments. The proposal is limited to middle and secondary core academic and world language endorsements as there is clear alignment between content area majors and these select endorsements. In addition, language was added requiring the department to develop guidance to support implementation of this provision.
4. Introduced assessment options for Music endorsements to provide flexibility and increase alignment between preparation content, endorsements, and candidate assessment.

Lastly, assessments that are no longer acceptable for licensure purposes have been removed from the policy.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Teachers and Leaders outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring licensure requirements remain both flexible and rigorous to encourage more individuals to pursue a career in education while also maintaining a high bar for the profession.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.