

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENTS FOR TENNESSEE EDUCATORS

5.105

Policy Sections

- I. General Assessment Requirements
- II. Pedagogical Assessments
- III. Specialty Area Content Assessments
- IV. Foundational Literacy Skills Assessment

I. General Assessment Requirements

- (1) Individuals seeking educator licensure in Tennessee shall submit, as applicable, qualifying scores on required assessments to demonstrate applicable pedagogical and specialty content area knowledge and skills.

II. Pedagogical Assessments

- (1) Individuals seeking initial educator licensure in Tennessee shall submit qualifying scores on the edTPA or Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) assessment, both of which measure pedagogical knowledge and are aligned to Tennessee’s professional education standards, unless otherwise set forth below.
- (2) Pedagogical assessment timelines and expectations for submitting qualifying scores are detailed in Department guidance.
 - (a) Individuals applying for an initial teacher license shall submit qualifying scores on the applicable edTPA assessment:

Table 1: edTPA				
Endorsement Area	Endorsement Code	edTPA Title	Test Code	Qualifying Score
Agriscience 6-12	151	Agricultural Education	100	40
American Sign Language 6-12	172	World Language	020	35
American Sign Language pre-K-12	171	World Language	020	35
Arabic 6-12	160	World Language	020	35
Arabic pre-K-12	478	World Language	020	35

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Table 1: edTPA				
Endorsement Area	Endorsement Code	edTPA Title	Test Code	Qualifying Score
Biology 6-12	126	Secondary Science	006	40
Business 6-12	152	Business Education	102	40
Chemistry 6-12	127	Secondary Science	006	40
Chinese 6-12	161	World Language	020	35
Chinese pre-K-12	479	World Language	020	35
Computer Science K-12	173	Educational Technology Specialist	108	40
Cons/Homemaking 5-12	450	Family and Consumer Sciences	117	40
Dance K-12	445	K-12 Performing Arts	021	40
Early Childhood Education pre-K-3	467	Early Childhood	014	40
Early Development and Learning pre-K-12	468	Early Childhood	014	40
Earth Science 6-12	128	Secondary Science	006	40
Economics 6-12	130	Secondary History/ Social Studies	004	40
Elementary Education K-5	120	Elementary Education Literacy with Mathematics	110	48
		Elementary Education Mathematics w/ Literacy	149	48
		Elementary Literacy	001	40
		Elementary Mathematics	002	40

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Table 1: edTPA				
Endorsement Area	Endorsement Code	edTPA Title	Test Code	Qualifying Score
English 6-12	159	Secondary English – Language Arts	003	40
English/Language Arts 6-8	121	Middle Childhood English – Language Arts	018	40
English as a Second Language pre-K–12	490	English as an Additional Language	115	40
Family and Consumer Sciences 6-12	154	Family and Consumer Sciences	117	40
French 6-12	163	World Language	020	35
French pre-K–12	491	World Language	020	35
Geography 6-12	131	Secondary History/ Social Studies	004	40
German 6-12	164	World Language	020	35
German pre-K–12	492	World Language	020	35
Government 6-12	132	Secondary History/ Social Studies	004	40
Greek 6-12	165	Classical Languages	104	35
Greek pre-K–12	484	Classical Languages	104	35
Health and Wellness K–12	419	Health Education	119	40
History 6-12	133	Secondary History/ Social Studies	004	40
Instrumental/General Music K–12	429	K–12 Performing Arts	021	40
Integrated Early Childhood Birth-K	2000	Early Childhood	014	40
Integrated Early Childhood pre-K-3	2001	Early Childhood	014	40
Japanese 6-12	166	World Language	020	35

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Table 1: edTPA				
Endorsement Area	Endorsement Code	edTPA Title	Test Code	Qualifying Score
Japanese pre-K–12	485	World Language	020	35
Latin 6-12	167	Classical Languages	104	35
Latin pre-K–12	493	Classical Languages	104	35
Library Information Specialist pre-K–12	473	Library Specialist	150	40
Marketing Edu 6-12	158	Business Education	102	40
Mathematics 6-12	125	Secondary Mathematics	005	40
Mathematics 6-10	2002	Secondary Mathematics or Middle Childhood Mathematics	005 or 016	40
Mathematics 6-8	122	Middle Childhood Mathematics	016	40
Other World Language 6-12	170	World Language	020	35
Other World Language pre-K–12	496	World Language	020	35
Physical Education K-12	420	K–12 Physical Education	011	40
Physics 6-12	129	Secondary Science	006	40
Psychology 9-12	426	Secondary History/ Social Studies	004	40
Russian 6-12	168	World Language	020	35
Russian pre-K–12	494	World Language	020	35
Science 6-8	123	Middle Childhood Science	017	40
Social Studies 6-8	124	Middle Childhood History/ Social Studies	019	40

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Table 1: edTPA				
Endorsement Area	Endorsement Code	edTPA Title	Test Code	Qualifying Score
Sociology 9-12	425	Secondary History/ Social Studies	004	40
Spanish 6-12	169	World Language	020	35
Spanish pre-K–12	495	World Language	020	35
Special Education Comprehensive K–12	461	Special Education	012	40
Special Education Hearing pre-K–12	463	Special Education	012	40
Special Education Interventionist 6-12	145	Special Education	012	40
Special Education Interventionist K-8	144	Special Education	012	40
Special Education pre-K/Early Childhood pre-K–3	459	Special Education	012	40
Special Education Vision pre-K–12	162	Special Education	012	40
Theatre K–12	405	K–12 Performing Arts	021	40
Visual Arts K–12	427	Visual Arts	015	40
Vocal/Gen Music K–12	428	K–12 Performing Arts	021	40

- (b) Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) may request that a candidate participate in an alternate edTPA if the clinical practice placement is more closely aligned with another edTPA.
- (c) For individuals applying for an initial teacher license in an endorsement area that does not have an applicable edTPA assessment, submission of a qualifying score on the appropriate Principles of Learning and Teaching assessment is required.
- (d) Candidates completing programs approved for licensure in Tennessee may submit the appropriate Principals of Learning and Teaching assessment in lieu of edTPA if taken on or before 12/31/2018. Scores will be accepted through 1/1/2024.

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Table 2: Principles of Learning and Teaching

Assessment Title	Test Code	Qualifying Score
Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT): Early Childhood	5621	157
Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT): Grades K-6	5622	160
Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT): Grades 5-9	5623	160
Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT): Grades 7-12	5624	157

- (3) Beginning June 1, 2023, the submission of qualifying scores on a pedagogical assessment is not required for individuals seeking to renew or advance a practitioner teacher license following completion of a state-board approved educator preparation program with a job-embedded clinical practice.
- (4) Individuals seeking issuance of a Tennessee practitioner teacher license through out-of-state pathway 1 or who are seeking renewal or advancement of a Tennessee practitioner license through out-of-state pathway 3 (as set forth in State Board Rule 0520-02-03-.03), shall submit qualifying scores on the appropriate PLT or the edTPA.
- (5) Individuals who are seeking or who obtained a Tennessee practitioner or professional license through out-of-state pathways 2, 4, or 5 are not required to submit qualifying scores on a pedagogical assessment for issuance, renewal, or advancement of the license.
- (6) The submission of qualifying scores on a pedagogical assessment is not required for individuals seeking a school services personnel license.
- (7) The submission of qualifying scores on a pedagogical assessment or specialty area content assessment is not required for individuals seeking an adjunct license.
- (8) Individuals enrolled in specialty area programs leading to more than one (1) endorsement shall only be required to submit qualifying scores on one (1) edTPA.

III. Specialty Area Content Assessments

- (1) Individuals seeking educator licensure in Tennessee shall demonstrate specialty area content knowledge for all endorsements sought.
- (2) Individuals seeking licensure and/or endorsement shall submit qualifying scores on all appropriate specialty area content knowledge assessments, as identified below.

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Table 3: Praxis and National Evaluation Series (NES) Assessments			
Endorsement Area ¹	Test Code	Assessment Title	Qualifying Score
Instructional Leader License	6990	School Leader Licensure Assessment	151
American Sign Language pre-K–12/6-12	0634	American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLP)²; or Sign Language Proficiency Interview	ASLPI 3+ ³ Advanced or higher
Agriculture Education 6-12	5701	Agriculture	147
Visual Arts K-12	5135	Art: Content and Analysis	161
Biology 6-12	5236 or 5235	Biology: Content Knowledge	154
		Biology: Content Knowledge (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken before 12/31/2023)	148
Business Education 6-12	5101	Business Education: Content Knowledge	154
Chemistry 6-12	5246 or 5245	Chemistry: Content Knowledge	146
		Chemistry: Content Knowledge (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken before 12/31/2023)	152
Chinese (Mandarin) pre-K–12/6-12	5665 or Alta	Chinese (Mandarin): World Language Alta Language Services Assessment⁴	164
Computer Science K–12 ⁵	5652	Computer Science	149
Early Child Education pre-K-3	5024	Education of Young Children	160
	5025	Early Childhood Education	156
	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162
Early Dev. & Learning pre-K–K (Dual Endorsement)	5024	Education of Young Children	160
	5691	Spec. Educ.: Preschool/ECE	159
	5025	Early Childhood Education	156
Earth Science 6-12	5572 or 5571	Earth and Space Sciences: Content Knowledge	154
		Earth & Space Science: Cont. Knowledge (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken before 12/31/2023)	150
Economics 6-12	5911	Economics	150
Educational Interpreter	N/A	Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment - Performance Assessment	3.5
		Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment - Written Assessment	Pass
Elementary Education K-5	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162
	5001	Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects	
	5003	Mathematics Subtest	157

¹ For individuals who are eligible for a 9-12 endorsement based on T.C.A. § 49-5-112, the required assessment is the same assessment required for the 6-12 endorsement in the equivalent content area.

² American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLP) is delivered and evaluated by ASL Diagnostic and Evaluation Services of Gallaudet University.

³ ETS scale score 170.

⁴ See Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment table for details and score requirements.

⁵ Educators seeking to add the Computer Science K-12 endorsement through the Computer Science additional endorsement pathway administered by the department shall submit qualifying scores on the required assessment identified in the Educator Licensure Policy 5.502.

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Table 3: Praxis and National Evaluation Series (NES) Assessments

Endorsement Area ¹	Test Code	Assessment Title	Qualifying Score
	5002	Reading and Language Arts Subtest	157
	5005	Science Subtest	159
	5004	Social Studies Subtest	155
English 6-12	5038	English Language Arts: Content Knowledge	167
English as a Second Language pre-K–12	5362	English to Speakers of Other Languages	155
Family & Consumer Sciences 6-12	5122	Family & Consumer Sciences	153
French pre-K–12/6-12	5174 or Alta	French: World Language Alta Language Services Assessment⁶	160
Geography 6-12	5921	Geography	149
German pre-K–12/6-12	5183 or Alta	German: World Language Alta Language Services Assessment⁷	163
Gifted pre-K-12	5358	Gifted Education	157
Government 6-12	5931	Government/Political Science	149
Health & Wellness K–12	5551 or 5857 ⁸	Health Education	144
		Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (dual endorsement only)	160
History 6-12	5941	World and U.S. History: Content Knowledge	157
Integrated Early Childhood Birth-K	5023	Interdisciplinary Early Childhood	166
Integrated Early Childhood pre-K-3	5025	Early Childhood Education	156
	5691	Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood Education	159
	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162
Latin pre-K–12/6-12	5601	Latin	148
Library Information Specialist pre-K–12	5312 or 5311	School Librarian	154
		Library Media Specialist (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken before 12/31/2023)	146
Marketing Education 6-12	5561	Marketing Education	169
Mathematics 6-12	5165 or 5161 or NES 304	Mathematics Mathematics: Content Knowledge (accepted through 8/31/2025, if taken by 8/31/2022) NES Mathematics	159 160 220
	NES 105	NES Mathematics (Middle Grades and Early Secondary)	220
	5047	Middle School English Language Arts	164
Middle Grades ELA 6-8	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162

⁶ See Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment table for details and score requirements.

⁷ See Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment table for details and score requirements.

⁸ For licensure applicants from a Health and Wellness K-12 and Physical Education K-12 dual-endorsement approved program.

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Table 3: Praxis and National Evaluation Series (NES) Assessments

Endorsement Area ¹	Test Code	Assessment Title	Qualifying Score
Middle Grades Mathematics 6-8	5164 or 5169 or NES 105	Middle School: Mathematics	157
		Middle School Mathematics (accepted through 8/31/2025, if taken by 8/31/2022)	165
		NES Mathematics (Middle Grades and Early Secondary)	220
	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162
Middle Grades Science 6-8	5442 or 5440	Middle School Science	152
		Middle School Science (accepted through 8/31/2024, if taken by 8/31/2021)	150
	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162
Middle Grades Social Studies 6-8	5089	Middle School Social Studies	146
	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162
Music (Instrumental/Gen) K–12	5115 or 5114	Music: Instrumental and General Knowledge	150
		Music: Content and Instruction	162
Music (Vocal/Gen.) K-12	5116 or 5114	Music: Vocal and General Knowledge	153
		Music: Content and Instruction	162
Other World Languages pre-K–12/6-12	Alta	Alta Language Services Assessment⁹	
Physical Education K–12	5091 or 5095 or 5857 ¹⁰	Physical Education: Content Knowledge	152
		Physical Education: Content and Design (accepted through 8/31/2027 if taken by 8/31/2024)	169
		Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (dual endorsement only)	160
Physics 6-12	5266 or 5265	Physics: Content Knowledge	145
		Physics: Content Knowledge (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken by 12/31/2023)	144
Psychology 9-12	5391	Psychology	154
Reading Specialist pre-K–12	5302 or 5301	Reading Specialist	165
		Reading Specialist (accepted through 8/31/2024, if taken by 8/31/2021)	164

⁹ See Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment table for details and score requirements.

¹⁰ For licensure applicants from a Health and Wellness K-12 and Physical Education K-12 dual-endorsement approved program.

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Table 3: Praxis and National Evaluation Series (NES) Assessments

Endorsement Area ¹	Test Code	Assessment Title	Qualifying Score
School Counselor pre-K–12	5422 or 5421	Professional School Counselor	159
		Professional School Counselor (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken by 12/31/2023)	156
School Psychologist pre-K–12	5403 or 5402	School Psychologist	155
		School Psychologist (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken by 12/31/2023)	147
Sociology 9-12	5952	Sociology	154
Spanish pre-K–12/6-12	5195 or Alta	Spanish: World Language Alta Language Services Assessment¹¹	163
SPED-Comprehensive K–12	5545	Spec. Educ.: Core Knowledge & Severe to Profound Applications	158
	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162
SPED-Preschool/ECE pre-K-3	5354	Spec. Educ.: Core Knowledge & Applications	151
	5692 or 5691	Special Education: Early Childhood/Early Intervention	159
		Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken by 12/31/2023)	159
	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162
SPED- Hearing pre-K–12	5354	Spec. Educ.: Core Knowledge & Applications	151
	5272	Ed. Of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students	160
	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162
Interventionist K-8 Interventionist 6-12	5543	Spec. Educ.: Core Knowledge & Mild to Moderate Applications	158
	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	162
SPED-Spch/Lang Pathologist pre-K–12	5331	Speech/Language Pathology	162
SPED-Vision pre-K–12	5354	Spec. Educ.: Core Knowledge & Applications	151
	5282	Spec. Educ.: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments	163
	5205 or 5203	Teaching Reading: Elementary	159
		Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (accepted through 8/31/2023, if taken by 8/31/2020)	159
Speech Communication 6-12	5221	Speech Communications	144
Theatre K–12	5641	Theatre	159

¹¹ See Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment table for details and score requirements.

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- (3) Beginning June 1, 2023, the submission of qualifying scores on a specialty area content assessment is not required for individuals seeking to advance from the practitioner teacher license to the professional teacher license if:
 - (a) The educator has completed a State Board-approved educator preparation program with a job-embedded clinical practice; and
 - (b) The educator obtained the practitioner license and endorsement by demonstrating that they hold a degree with a major aligned to a qualifying middle or secondary core academic or World Language endorsement. Qualifying endorsements and assessments are identified in bold in Table 3 and 4 of this policy.
- (4) Beginning June 1, 2023, the submission of qualifying scores on a specialty area content assessment is not required for individuals seeking a practitioner license if:
 - (a) The educator has completed a State Board-approved educator preparation program; and
 - (b) The educator demonstrates that they hold a degree with a major aligned to a qualifying middle or secondary core academic or World Language endorsement for which they are seeking licensure and endorsement. Qualifying endorsements and assessments are identified in bold in Table 3 and 4 of this policy.
- (5) The Department will produce and release guidance to support implementation of paragraphs (3) and (4) of this section.
- (6) Individuals seeking the license for postsecondary educators shall submit qualifying scores on the assessment required for the 6-12 endorsement in the equivalent specialty content area.
- (7) Unless exempted under paragraph (3) or (4) of this policy section, individuals seeking any pre-K-12 or 6-12 World Languages endorsement shall submit qualifying scores on either the appropriate Praxis Series assessment or the appropriate Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment, and Written Assessment, administered by the Tennessee Language Center. For individuals seeking an endorsement in World Languages for which there is not an applicable Praxis Series assessment, submission of a qualifying score on the appropriate Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment is required. Based on candidate documented proficiency, English assessments may not be required.

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Table 4: Alta Language Services Assessments

Endorsement Area	Alta Assessment Title	Qualifying Score
Arabic 6-12 or Arabic pre-K-12	Speaking and Listening Assessment in Arabic and English, and Written Assessment in Arabic and English	Advanced Low (i.e., 8 on a scale of 1 to 12) or an average of 8 for the speaking and written tests with no score below 7 on either test.
German 6-12 or German pre-K-12	Speaking and Listening Assessment in German and English, and Written Assessment in German and English	Advanced Low (i.e., 8 on a scale of 1 to 12) or an average of 8 for the speaking and written tests with no score below 7 on either test.
Greek 6-12 or Greek pre-K-12	Speaking and Listening Assessment in Greek and English, and Written Assessment in Greek and English	Advanced Low (i.e., 8 on a scale of 1 to 12) or an average of 8 for the speaking and written tests with no score below 7 on either test.
Japanese 6-12 or Japanese pre-K-12	Speaking and Listening Assessment in Japanese and English, and Written Assessment in Japanese and English	Advanced Low (i.e., 8 on a scale of 1 to 12) or an average of 8 for the speaking and written tests with no score below 7 on either test.
Russian 6-12 or Russian pre-K-12	Speaking and Listening Assessment in Russian and English, and Written Assessment in Russian and English	Advanced Low (i.e., 8 on a scale of 1 to 12) or an average of 8 for the speaking and written tests with no score below 7 on either test.
Spanish 6-12 or Spanish pre-K-12	Speaking and Listening Assessment in Spanish and English, and Written Assessment in Spanish and English	Advanced Low (i.e., 8 on a scale of 1 to 12) or an average of 8 for the speaking and written tests with no score below 7 on either test.
French 6-12 or French pre-K-12	Speaking and Listening Assessment in French and English, and Written Assessment in French and English	Advanced Low (i.e., 8 on a scale of 1 to 12) or an average of 8 for the speaking and written tests with no score below 7 on either test.
Other World Languages 6-12 or Other World Languages pre-K-12	Speaking and Listening Assessment in the applicable language, and Written Assessment in the Other World Language	Advanced Low (i.e., 8 on a scale of 1 to 12) or an average of 8 for the speaking and written tests with no score below 7 on either test.

IV. Foundational Literacy Skills Assessment

- (1) Pursuant to the Tennessee Literacy Success Act, educators seeking to obtain or maintain K-5 endorsements identified in the Educator Licensure Policy 5.502 shall either pass a required foundational skills literacy assessment as identified below or complete a Department-approved foundational literacy skills professional development course prior to obtaining the endorsement or maintaining the endorsement on a license that is being renewed or advanced. State Board of Education Educator Licensure Rule 0520-02-03-.11 provides additional details regarding how an educator may obtain and maintain licensure and endorsement in endorsement areas identified in the Educator Licensure Policy 5.502.

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Table 5: Foundational Literacy Skills Assessment Requirements

Assessment Title	Qualifying Score
Tennessee Foundational Literacy Skills Assessment	80%