



Tennessee Early Literacy Assessment

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BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE

STUDENT READINESS

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS IN THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS

EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE THE TOP STATE IN WHICH TO BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER FOR ALL

Overview

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Literacy Success Act Requirements

Requirements

- The Tennessee Literacy Success Act, required effective August 1, 2023 that an applicable candidate must:
 - (A) Provide a certificate documenting the candidate's passage of a Tennessee reading instruction test developed or identified by the department and approved by the state board that tests the candidate's knowledge of foundational literacy skills instruction, as defined in T.C.A. § 49-1-903; or
 - (B) Provide evidence documenting the candidate's completion of a foundational literacy skills instruction course, as described in T.C.A. § 49-1-906, within the previous year

- The Tennessee Department of Education Responsibilities
 - Develop a Tennessee foundational literacy skills assessment (TN Early Literacy Assessment) that tests the candidate's knowledge of foundational literacy instruction (*defined as an evidence-based method of teaching students to read that includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension that enables students to develop the reading skills required to meet Tennessee's academic standards*) T.C.A. § 49-1-903
 - Determine a score that constitutes passage of the test
 - Offer the test at no cost to the candidate or educator preparation provider

Assessment Development & Design

Assessment Considerations

- The Tennessee Literacy Success Act is designed to ensure that all students are proficient in reading by the end of third grade. Children who are reading at grade level by third grade are more likely to **stay on grade level over time; graduate from high school, enter and complete post-secondary programs, and become gainfully employed later in life.**
- The Tennessee Early Literacy Assessment assesses a teacher candidate's knowledge around **evidence-based literacy instruction** based on **The Science of Reading*** and use of **high-quality instructional materials (HQIM)**. The purpose of this test is to ensure that all TN educators have a shared body of knowledge about the research and science behind learning to read.



*See reference slides.

Development Pathways

- The development pathway for the Tennessee Early Literacy Assessment included three phases from the passage of the TN Literacy Success Act until present.

- **Landscape Analysis**

- A thorough review of the assessment landscape was conducted to determine if an "off the shelf" assessment could be purchased or modified.
- The department also explored modifying the existing assessment created for the Early Literacy Training as an option for the stand-alone assessment.

- **Cost/Benefit Analysis**

- The department conducted a cost/benefit analysis of assessment options, which elucidated significant barriers to implementation of the aforementioned "off the shelf" options:
 - The assessment must be fully aligned to Literacy Success Act standards.
 - Modifying existing assessments to ensure full alignment would be cost prohibitive.
 - Building an assessment was determined to be the most viable pathway.

- **Assessment Creation**

- The department partnered with ANet to develop the assessment and variation sequencing of the item types represented within the design.



Assessment Layout

- The 25-item assessment represents these categories and sub-category domains of teaching and learning, as follows ***Sounds First Instruction, Decoding and Fluency, Phonemic and Phonological Awareness, Phonics and Word Recognition, and Morphology and Vocabulary*** and also includes items referencing the use of ***High-Quality Instructional Materials***.

Standard 1: Content Knowledge

Standard 2: Language & Literacy Rich Environment

Standard 3: HQIM & Lesson Preparation

Sounds First

Phonemic and
Phonological
Awareness

Phonics and
Word
Recognition

Decoding,
Encoding, &
Fluency

Morphology &
Vocabulary

High-Quality
Instructional
Materials

LITERACY AND SPECIALTY AREA STANDARDS FOR EDUCATOR

PREPARATION 5.505 (Page 2-62)



Item Type: Multiple Choice

Description of Item Type -

Multiple choice items on the assessment are constructed with four (4) single-select corresponding answer choices that appropriately address the scope and content of the question. These types of questions are reflected across each domain (Content Knowledge; Language and Literacy Rich Environment; and High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and Lesson Preparation) of standards in the assessment.

This item type provides automatic scoring for the overall assessment performance feedback to candidates.





Item Type: Multiple-Select

Description of Item Type -

Multiple-select items on the assessment are constructed with a minimum of five (5) answer choices and a maximum of eight (8) answer choices, where two (2) to five (5) options appropriately address the scope of the item representing the foundational literacy standard domains (Content Knowledge; Language and Literacy Rich Environment; and High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and Lesson Preparation) of standards in the assessment.

No partial credit will be awarded for any multiple-select items that are not fully and accurately answered by candidates.

This item type provides automatic scoring for the overall assessment performance feedback to candidates.



Item Type: Drop Down & Matching

Description of Item Type -

Drop down and matching items include four (4) components to answer each item type, adequately. Within each of the components of the question, there are four (4) constrained answer choices to select from. These types of questions are reflected across each domain (Content Knowledge; Language and Literacy Rich Environment; and High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) and Lesson Preparation) of standards in the assessment.

No partial credit will be awarded for any multiple-select items that are not fully and accurately answered by candidates.

This item type provides automatic scoring for the overall assessment performance feedback to candidates.



Assessment Design – Form Type

- Test takers will be presented with 25 questions.
 - Each question has 4 possible options, resulting in 1.125 quadrillion permutations of the assessment.
- The item that users see is randomized when they start the test the first time or retake the test.
- The table below is an example of how the test is generated for different users.
 - Questions are numbered and the four possible options are labeled a-d.

Question	Test Taker 1	Test Taker 2	Test Taker 3	Test Taker 4
1	B	C	D	A
2	A	D	C	C
3	C	A	C	D
4	C	D	B	A
5	B	B	C	B



Security Features

- Test takers will use Single Sign-On (SSO) either through department-issued credentials or using a Business to Consumer (B2C) credential. This ensures that one user is attached to one account.
 - B2C uses third party systems such as Google, Facebook, or Twitter to log in.
- When users start, retake, or leave and return from the exam, they will be presented with new questions.
- At the end of the assessment, users are presented with the number they answered correctly and the percentage. They do not see which questions they answered correctly.
- Upon passage, users are certified by our platform using a badging system. Those badges are tied to individual users and cannot be shared.



Recommendation of Cut Score

- The recommended cut score for the Tennessee Early Literacy Assessment is proposed at **80%**.
- This allows for candidates to miss five (5) or fewer questions on a 4-point scale.
- This recommendation and indication of a passing score aligns with the cut score established for both the Early Reading Training and the Secondary Literacy Training assessments.



Communication & Implementation

Licensure Processing

Overview

- Effective August 1, 2023, candidates seeking to **obtain, renew, or advance** a teaching license with at least one qualifying endorsement should provide evidence documenting the completion of an approved foundational literacy skills course or passage of the TN Early Literacy Assessment.
 - Completing the free **TN Early Reading Training, Secondary Literacy Training,** or passing the **TN Early Literacy Assessment** meets this training requirement.
- Applications for initial licensure, licensure renewal or advancement, and additional endorsement received on or after **August 1, 2023**, will be evaluated against the aforementioned requirements.

Badging System

- To facilitate this process, the department has worked with multiple vendors to connect our new Learning Management System (LMS) to TNCompass to create a **badging system** that will encompass the various ways through which candidates can demonstrate having met the requirement.
- Candidates who have a TN Literacy Success Act badge on their TNCompass account will be eligible to **obtain, renew or advance** their license. Others in required endorsement areas without the badge will receive guidance on how to either complete the training or take the assessment.



Communication Outline

- The department will be engaging in a multi-faceted communications rollout to stakeholders to communicate availability of the TN Early Literacy Assessment upon State Board of Education (SBE) approval:

Audience	Outreach	Timeline*
Candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct message of licensure requirements and assessment availability on TNCompass homepage • TN Early Literacy Assessment Guidance Document • Direct communication from EPPs for recent graduates • Update to TDOE website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon assessment approval and launch • August 2023 • August 2023 • September 2023
Districts/Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct communication to Directors of Schools from TDOE • Educator Licensure newsletter • CUFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2023 • September 2023 • September 2023
EPPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct communication from TDOE • EPP newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2023 • September 2023

*All timeline estimates are based on formal approval from SBE.





Summary

- Assessment aligns to EPP Foundational Literacy Standards and use of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM).
- Uniquely designed for Tennessee.
- Does not remove or replace the requirement for Praxis.
- Free to test takers and EPP providers.
- Addresses Tennessee Literacy Success Act requirements.
- Prepared for launch, pending State Board of Education approval.



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Q & A

Thank You!

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