PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENTS FOR TENNESSEE EDUCATORS POLICY

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.
- (2) The Department of Education (Department) shall provide guidance to support licensure reactivation timelines and requirements.

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) Beginning July 1, 2026, individuals seeking educator licensure in Tennessee through enrollment in or completion of a State Board of Education (State Board) approved educator preparation program with a Department approved clinical practice shall not be required to take a pedagogical assessment for licensure. Individuals seeking licensure on or after July 1, 2026 who completed a State Board approved educator preparation program prior to the clinical practice being approved by the Department shall be required to submit qualifying scores on a pedagogical assessment in accordance with this policy.
- (3) 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:

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Table 1: edTPA						
Endorsement Area	Endorsement Code	edTPA Title	Test Code	Qualifying Score		
Agricultural Education 6-12 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		
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 V 12	173	Educational Technology Specialist	108	40		
Computer Science K–12	173	Technology and Engineering Education	143	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		

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Table 1: edTPA						
Endorsement Area	Endorsement Code	edTPA Title	Test Code	Qualifying Score		
		Elementary Education Mathematics w/ Literacy	149	48		
		Elementary Literacy	001	40		
		Elementary Mathematics	002	40		
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		

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Table 1: edTPA						
Endorsement Area	Endorsement Code	edTPA Title	Test Code	Qualifying Score		
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		
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		

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Table 1: edTPA							
Endorsement Area	Endorsement Code	edTPA Title	Test Code	Qualifying Score			
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			
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.

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- (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.

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					

- (2) 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.
- (3) Beginning June 1, 2025, the submission of qualifying scores on a pedagogical assessment is not required for individuals seeking to reactivate 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 teacher license through out-of-state pathways 2, 4, or 5 are not required to submit qualifying scores on a pedagogical assessment for issuance, renewal, advancement, or reactivation 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.

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(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.

Table 3: P	raxis and	National Evaluation Series (NES) Assessments	
Endorsement Area ¹	Test Code	Assessment Title	Qualifying Score
	6990	School Leader Licensure Assessment	151
Instructional Leader License	or NES 815 ²	Educational Leadership (for reactivation purposes only)	220
American Sign Language pre-K–12/6- 12	0634	American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLP) ³ ; or Sign Language Proficiency Interview	ASLPI 3+4 Advanced or higher
Agriculture Education 6-12 AgriScience 6-12	5701	Agriculture	147
Visual Arts K-12	5135	Art: Content and Analysis	161
	5236	Biology: Content Knowledge	154
Biology 6-12	or 5235	Biology: Content Knowledge (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken before 12/31/2023)	148
Business 6-12	5101	Business Education: Content Knowledge	154
	5246	Chemistry: Content Knowledge	146
Chemistry 6-12	or 5245	Chemistry: Content Knowledge (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken before 12/31/2023)	152
	5665	Chinese (Mandarin): World Language	164
Chinese (Mandarin) pre-K-12/6-12	or Alta	Alta Language Services Assessment ⁵	
Computer Science K–12 ⁶	5652	Computer Science	149
Early Child Education pre-K-3	<u>5534</u>	Early Childhood Education: Foundational Knowledge and Content*	<u>163</u>

^{*}For assessments marked with a *, candidates enrolled in an approved program with job-embedded practice are required to submit qualifying assessment scores upon licensure renewal.

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 Educators may only use The National Evaluation Series – Educational Leadership 815 when seeking to reactivate an expired Instructional Leader (ILL) or Professional Instructional Leader (ILL-P) license.

³ American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) is delivered and evaluated by ASL Diagnostic and Evaluation Services of Gallaudet University.

⁵ See Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment table for details and score requirements.

⁶ 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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		Assessment Title	Qualifying
		Assessment nue	Score
	<u>or</u> 5024	Education of Young Children* (accepted through 08/31/2029 if taken before	160
	5025	08/31/2026)Education of Young Children* Early Childhood Education	156
	5205	Teaching Reading: Elementary*	159
	<u>5534</u>	Early Childhood Education: Foundational Knowledge and Content*	163
	<u>or</u> 5024	Education of Young Children* (accepted through 08/31/2029 if taken before 08/31/2026)Education of Young Children*	160
Early Development& Learning pre-K–K	5692	Special Education: Early Childhood/Early Intervention	159
(Dual Endorsement)	or 5691	Spec. Educ.: Preschool/ECE (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken by 12/31/2023)	159
	5025	Early Childhood Education	156
Earth Science 6-12	5572 or	Earth and Space Sciences: Content Knowledge	154
Earth Science 6-12	5571	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 Proficiency Assessment - Performance Assessment	3.5
Educational Interpreter	N/A	Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment - Written Assessment	Pass
	5205	Teaching Reading: Elementary*	159
	5001	Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects	
Elementary Education K-5	5003	Mathematics Subtest	157
	5002	Reading and Language Arts Subtest	157
	5005 5004	Science Subtest Social Studies Subtest	159 155
English 6-12	5038	English Language Arts: Content Knowledge	167
English as a Second Language pre-K–12 English as a Second Language K-8 English as a Second Language 6-12	5362	English to Speakers of Other Languages	155
	5123	Family & Consumer Sciences	151
Family & Consumer Sciences 6-12	or 5122	Family & Consumer Sciences (accepted through 09/01/2027 if taken by 09/01/2024)	153
	5174	French: WorldLanguage	160
French pre-K-12/6-12	or Alta	Alta Language Services Assessment ⁷	
Geography 6-12	5921	Geography	149
	5183	German: World Language	163
German pre-K-12/6-12	or Alta	Alta Language Services Assessment ⁸	
Gifted preK-12	5358	Gifted Education	157
Government 6-12	5931	Government/Political Science	149

 $^{^{\}rm 7}\,{\rm See}$ Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment table for details and score requirements.

⁸ See Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment table for details and score requirements.

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		Assessment Title	Qualifying Score
Health & Wellness K–12	5551	Health Education	144
Health & Wellness K-8 Health & Wellness 6-12	or 5857 ⁹	Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (dual endorsement only)	160
History 6-12	5941	World and U.S. History: Content Knowledge	157
	<u>5534</u> <u>or</u>	Early Childhood Education: Foundational Knowledge and Content	<u>163</u>
Integrated Early Childhood Birth-K	5023	Interdisciplinary Early Childhood (accepted through 08/31/2029 if taken before 08/31/2026) Interdisciplinary Early Childhood	166
	5025	Early Childhood Education	156
	5692	Special Education: Early Childhood/Early Intervention	159
Integrated Early Childhood pre-K-3	or 5691	Spec. Educ.: Preschool/ECE (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken by 12/31/2023)	159
	5205	Teaching Reading: Elementary*	159
Latin pre-K-12/6-12	5601	Latin	148
	5312	School Librarian	154
Library Information Specialist pre-K-12	or 5311	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
Middle and Early Secondary Grades	NES 105	NES Mathematics (Middle Grades and Early Secondary)	220
Mathematics 6-10	INES 103	NES Mathematics (Middle Grades and Early Secondary)	220
Middle Grades ELA6-8	5047	Middle School English Language Arts	164
	5164 or	Middle School: Mathematics	157
Middle Grades Mathematics 6-8	5169 or	Middle School Mathematics (accepted through 8/31/2025, if taken by 8/31/2022)	165
	NES 105	NES Mathematics (Middle Grades and Early Secondary)	220
Middle Grader Science C 9	5442	Middle School Science	152
Middle Grades Science 6-8	or 5440	Middle School Science (accepted through 8/31/2024, if taken by 8/31/2021)	150
	5589	Middle School Social Studies	149
Middle Grades Social Studies 6-8	<u>Or</u> 5089	Middle School Social Studies (accepted through 08/31/2029 if taken before	146

⁹ For licensure applicants from a Health and Wellness K-12 and Physical Education K-12 dual-endorsement approved program.

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		Assessment Title	Qualifyin Score
Music (Instrumental/Gen) K–12	5115 or	Music: Instrumental and General Knowledge	150
, , ,	5114	Music: Content and Instruction	162
	5116	Music: Vocal and General Knowledge	153
Music (Vocal/Gen.) K-12	or 5114	Music: Content and Instruction	162
Other World Languages pre-K– 12/6-12	Alta	Alta Language Services Assessment ¹⁰	
•	5091	Physical Education: Content Knowledge	152
Physical Education K-12 Physical Education K-8 Physical Education 6-12	or 5095 or	Physical Education: Content and Design (accepted through 8/31/2027 if taken by 8/31/2024)	169
	5857 ¹¹	Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (dual endorsement only)	160
	5266 or	Physics: Content Knowledge	145
Physics 6-12	5265	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	Reading Specialist	165
reduing specialist pre it 12	5301	Reading Specialist (accepted through 8/31/2024, if taken by 8/31/2021)	164
	5422 or	Professional School Counselor	159
School Counselorpre-K–12	5421	Professional School Counselor (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken by 12/31/2023)	156
	5403	School Psychologist	155
SchoolPsychologistpre-K-12	or 5402	School Psychologist (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken by 12/31/2023)	147
Sociology 9-12	5952	Sociology	154
Spanish pre-K-12/	5195 or	Spanish: World Language	163
6-12	Alta	Alta Language Services Assessment ¹²	
	5547	Special Education: Severe to Profound	156
SPED-Comprehensive K–12	or 5545	Spec. Educ.: Core Knowledge & Severe to Profound Applications (accepted through 08/31/2027 if taken by 08/31/2024)	158
	5205	Teaching Reading: Elementary*	159
	5355 Or	Special Education: Foundational Knowledge	145
SPED-PreschoolECE pre-K-3	5354	Spec. Educ.: Core Knowledge & Applications (accepted through 08/31/2027 if taken by 08/31/2024)	151

 $^{^{10}}$ See Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment table for details and score requirements.

¹¹ For licensure applicants from a Health and Wellness K-12 and Physical Education K-12 dual-endorsement approved program.

¹² See Alta Language Services Speaking and Listening Assessment table for details and score requirements.

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Table 3: Praxis and National Evaluation Series (NES) Assessments				
Endorsement Area ¹ Test Code		Assessment Title	Qualifying Score	
	5692	Special Education: Early Childhood/Early Intervention	159	
	or 5691	Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood (accepted through 12/31/2026 if taken by 12/31/2023)	159	
	5205	Teaching Reading: Elementary*	159	
	5355 Or	Special Education: Foundational Knowledge	145	
SPED- Hearing pre-K–12	5354	Spec. Educ.: Core Knowledge & Applications (accepted through 08/31/2027 if taken by 08/31/2024)	151	
	5272	Ed. Of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students	160	
	5205	Teaching Reading: Elementary*	159	
	5355 Or	Special Education: Foundational Knowledge	145	
Interventionist K-8 Interventionist 6-12	5543	Spec. Educ.: Core Knowledge & Mild to Moderate Applications (accepted through 08/31/2027 if taken by 08/31/2024)	158	
	5205	Teaching Reading: Elementary*	159	
SPED-Spch/Lang Pathologist pre-K-12	5331	Speech/Language Pathology	162	
	5355 Or	Special Education: Foundational Knowledge	145	
SPED-Vision pre-K–12	5354	Spec. Educ.: Core Knowledge & Applications (accepted through 08/31/2027 if taken by 08/31/2024)	151	
	5282	Spec. Educ.: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments	163	
	5205	Teaching Reading: Elementary*	159	
Speech Communication 6-12	5221	Speech Communications	144	
Theatre K–12	5641	Theatre	159	

- (3) Beginning June 1, 2023, the submission of qualifying scores on a specialty area content assessment is not required for individuals seeking to renew the practitioner teacher license or advance from the practitioner 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 Tables 3 and 4 of this policy section.
- (4) Beginning June 1, 2023, the submission of qualifying scores on a specialty area content assessment is not required for individuals seeking a practitioner teacher license if:

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- (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 Tables 3 and 4 of this policy section.
- (5) The Department will produce and release guidance to support the implementation of paragraphs (3) and (4) of this policy 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.

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.			

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Table 4: Alta Language Services Assessments					
Endorsement Area	Alta Assessment Title	Qualifying Score			
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.

Table 5: Foundational Literacy Skills Assessment Requirements	
Assessment Title	Qualifying Score
Tennessee Foundational Literacy Skills Assessment	80%

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