

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DISCUSSION RESOLUTION  
COMMENT/RESPONSE FORM**

This comment and response form contain comments from the June 5, 2019, meeting of the State Board of Education.

**Topic:** Adoption of New Assessments  
for Administrators, Principals,  
Teaching Reading, and Praxis  
Core Mathematics

**Meeting Date:** July 3, 2019

**Level:** Adoption Resolution

**Division:** Division of Academics  
and Performance

**Completed by:** Office of Certification  
and Induction

**Summary of Comments and Agency Responses:**

The following is a summary of the comments received from State Board of Education members and the Department of Education's (Department) responses. Each commenter is identified at the end of the comment by a letter, which corresponds to the following list:

A. Kathy Goldenberg, Vice President  
State Board of Education

B. Dr. Ronald Butcher, Member  
State Board of Education

C. Andrew Mulvihill, Member  
State Board of Education

1. **COMMENT:** The commenter asked if CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) recommended the proposed cut scores on Praxis Core. **(B)**

**RESPONSE:** No, CAEP did not recommend the proposed cut score. For educator preparation programs to meet the accreditation Standard 3, Component 3.2, programs must show that their average performance of each student class or cohort on nationally normed assessments is in the top 50 percent of those assessed. During the redesign process for Praxis Core Mathematics, Educational Testing Service (ETS) collaborated with CAEP and agreed upon a path by which scores from the new subtest will continue to fulfill the mathematics requirement of CAEP Standard 3, Component 3.2.

2. **COMMENT:** The commenter asked if there are different cut scores for different states. **(A)**

**RESPONSE:** Yes, passing scores vary by state or agency and are not set by ETS.

3. **COMMENT:** The commenter questioned whether adopting the resolution would make it was harder or easier to pass the tests, or in other words whether the changes would make it easier to get into the teaching profession. The commenter expressed familiarity with some teachers who teach mathematics without knowledge of basic geometry and algebra. (C)

**RESPONSE:** As standards change, there is a need for assessments to be revised. The Department cannot make the determination if the tests are harder or easier to pass as it does not have the data available at this time. The Department is proposing the adoption of revised Praxis Core Mathematics, which is currently used to assess most teachers who are seeking entry into an educator preparation program.

4. **COMMENT:** The commenter asked why international standards on literacy are being used as the standards for the Teaching Reading K-12 assessment. (C)

**RESPONSE:** The 2017 International Literacy Association standards were developed by literacy experts from the United States.

5. **COMMENT:** The commenter questioned why the cut score for Teaching Reading in the resolution is 156, but the sheet with the additional information lists the score as 159. (C)

**RESPONSE:** The proposed Teaching Reading K-12 score of 156 listed on the resolution is the recommended cut score determined from the multi-state standard setting study. The fact sheet provided to the State Board of Education members listed the recommended and adopted cut scores for the Teaching Reading K-12 assessment that is currently being used in New Jersey.



Adoption Resolution  
July 3, 2019

State of New Jersey

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT NEW TESTS AND QUALIFYING SCORES FOR PRAXIS CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS: MATHEMATICS, TEACHING READING: K-12, AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP SERIES ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND PRINCIPALS**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) has required that teacher certification candidates pass tests in specified disciplines in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.

**WHEREAS**, the State Board has required that school administrator candidates pass a test in specified disciplines in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board has required that principal candidates pass a test in specified disciplines in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12; and

**WHEREAS**, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently established new tests to replace the current Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Mathematics (Praxis Core Mathematics), Teaching Reading: K-12, and School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) and School Superintendent Assessment (SAA) (School Leadership Series) that are in use by the Department of Education (Department); and

**WHEREAS**, the Department has participated in national standard-setting studies for the Praxis Core Mathematics and the School Leadership Series to determine the validity of and the theoretically appropriate qualifying score for those tests; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board approves the Department's selection of the respective Praxis Core Mathematics, Teaching Reading: K-12, and School Leadership Series assessments and initial qualifying assessment scores; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department will monitor the impact of these tests and qualifying scores on the passing rates for each subject area and will report any problems with the same to the State Board; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board hereby supports the Department's selection of the Praxis Core Mathematics, Teaching Reading: K-12, and School Leadership Series; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby acknowledges and approves the following qualifying scores, effective September 1, 2019:

Qualifying Scores

Core Academic Skills for Educators: Mathematics	150
Teaching Reading: K-12	156
School Leaders Licensure Assessment	151
School Superintendent Assessment	162

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Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner  
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

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President  
N.J. State Board of Education