

Resolution to Adopt Revised Praxis Tests and Qualifying Scores for Praxis General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Sciences and a New Test and Qualifying Score for Computer Science

The following is the accessible version of the resolution to adopt revised Praxis Tests and Qualifying Scores for Praxis General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Sciences and a new test and qualifying score for Computer Science. The adoption resolution document includes two sections – [comment and response form](#) and the [resolution](#).

**State Board of Education
Comment/Response Form**

This comment and response form contains comments from the July 12, 2023, meeting of the State Board of Education when the resolution was discussed.

Topic: Praxis Cut Scores for Science and Computer Science

Meeting Date: August 2, 2023

Level: Adoption

Division: Field Support and Services

Completed by: Division of Field Support and Services

Summary of Comments and Agency Responses:

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

- A. Kathy Goldenberg, President, State Board of Education
- B. Arcelio Aponte, Member, State Board of Education
- C. Mary Beth Berry, Member, State Board of Education
- D. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi, Member, State Board of Education

1. Comment: The commenter asked which states have adopted the Praxis tests for General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences, and Computer Science. **(C)**
Response: Please see the chart in the response to Comment 2.

2. Comment: The commenter asked if the states that are using the Praxis tests for General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences, and Computer Science have adopted the recommended cut score. The commenter also asked for a list of states that have adopted the tests and the associated cut scores each state adopted. **(A)**
Response: The chart below reflects the states that have adopted the Praxis tests and corresponding cut scores as of July 19, 2023.

Praxis Test	Cut Score	States that adopted the test
General Science (5436)	141 (recommended by test vendor)	Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia

Biology (5236)	154 (recommended by test vendor)	Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia
	148	Mississippi
Chemistry (5246)	146 (recommended by test vendor)	Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia
	140	Mississippi
Physics (5266)	145 (recommended by test vendor)	Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia
	140	Mississippi
Earth Science	154 (recommended by test vendor)	Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia
Computer Science	149 (recommended by test vendor)	Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming
	142	Arkansas, South Dakota, and Virginia

3. **Comment:** The commenter asked if any state that has adopted the Praxis tests for General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences and Computer Science. increased the cut scores. **(C)**
Response: None of the states that use the Praxis tests for General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences and Computer Science has adopted a cut score that is higher than the score recommended by the test vendor. Please see the chart in the response to Comment 2 for more details.
4. **Comment:** The commenter asked how the Department determined what qualifications were needed to teach computer science before the computer science endorsement was created. **(B)**
Response: Prior to the adoption of the computer science endorsement earlier this year, each school district made the most appropriate placement of teachers based on certifications held and experience. Individuals who taught computer science are eligible for the new computer science endorsement if they received two effective or highly effective ratings in teaching computer science within the last four years and they pass the appropriate State test of computer science content knowledge, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-10:15(c).
5. **Comment:** The commenter stated that computer science is a critical component of economic development and is pleased that the individuals who have been teaching this subject can be rewarded by a more flexible pathway to earn the new endorsement. **(B)**
Response: The Department thanks the commenter for the support.
6. **Comment:** The commenter asked for confirmation that the test vendor does not have input in the creation of cut scores but recommends the cut scores based on a multi-state study. **(D)**
Response: The test vendor does not have input in the creation of the cut scores for the Praxis the Praxis tests for General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences and Computer Science.
7. **Comment:** The commenter asked for confirmation that the new Praxis the Praxis tests for General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences and Computer Science and associated cut scores are not effective until September 1, 2023, and that anyone who takes the test through August 31, 2023, will take the current tests with the associated cut scores. **(D)**
Response: The commenter's statement is accurate.
8. **Comment:** The commenter stated that she has been a proponent of computer science and coding, and is pleased that the Governor supports progress in this field and the Department has taken steps forward with the computer science endorsement. The commenter also stated that it is important because other countries are progressing in this field. **(A)**
Response: The Department thanks the commenter for the support.



**Adoption Resolution
August 2, 2023**

State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

A Resolution to Adopt Revised Praxis Tests and Qualifying Scores for Praxis General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Sciences and a New Test and Qualifying Score for Computer Science

Whereas, the State Board of Education has required that teacher certification candidates pass tests in specified disciplines in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.1, that became effective May 1, 2023; and

Whereas, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently revised and established new recommended qualifying scores for revised tests in the subject areas of Praxis General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Sciences to replace the current tests used by the Department; and

Whereas, the Department has recently adopted a new Computer Science endorsement and Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently established a new test in the subject area of Computer Science; and

Whereas, New Jersey stakeholders have participated in national standard-setting studies for the General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, and Computer Science tests; 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 of Education; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby supports the Department’s selection of these Praxis tests; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby acknowledges and accepts the tests and adopts the following qualifying scores effective September 1, 2023:

Qualifying Score

Biology	154
Chemistry	156
Earth Science	154
General Science	141
Physics	145
Computer Science	149

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, State Board of Education

Kathy Goldenberg, President
State Board of Education