

**Score Setting Panel
Jackson, Mississippi
June 23, 2006**

Participants

Dr. James Hutto, Superintendent, Petal School District
Kim LaFontaine, Teacher of English, Pearl High School
Renee Moore, NBCT, Professor of English, Mississippi Delta Community College

Cory Murphy, Bureau Director, Educator Licensure, Mississippi Department of Education

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to set scores on three tests for which Mississippi had previously conducted standard setting studies. The three tests, 0371 Special Education: Teaching Students with Behavior Disorders, 0011 Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, and 0511 Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge were studied in April 2006.

To determine a passing score for each of these three tests, the panelists – all members of the Mississippi Teacher Licensure Commission – examined the following documents:

- Test at a Glance
- Test Information Sheet
- 3 year rolling national data for this test
- Demographic information from the standard setting study (SSS)
- SSS results for job relevancy
- SSS results for recommended passing score

Meeting Procedure

Cory Murphy welcomed the panelists and explained the purpose of the meeting. An explanation of background information on the test development process and on the test adoption process explaining how Mississippi came to be at the point of setting passing scores for these three tests was offered.

Panelists examined the documents provided by ETS and made recommendations for each of the three tests. The tests had already been validated through the SSS process; so determining appropriateness for use in Mississippi was not the charge of this panel. All three tests validated through the SSS process. This panel's charge was to examine data from the SSS and to set an appropriate passing score on each test.

Discussion

Test 0371 Special Education: Teaching Students with Behavior Disorders/Emotional Disturbance

The recommended study value for this test was 162, which would put Mississippi at the high end of user state's passing scores. It would also reflect a passing percentage of 66% over three years of national test taker data. The panel also looked at lowering the passing score between one and two SEM below the recommended study value to 150, which would place Mississippi in the lower middle range of user states and would result in an 89% pass range nationally. This test will be used for initial licensing of graduates who have completed an approved master's program for a degree in special education – emotional disability seeking licensure in emotional disability.

The panelists believed that this would afford test takers in this critical area of shortage a better chance at meeting the minimum score requirement for initial licensing and ultimately provide a better pool of applicants.

Test 0011 Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

The panelists were pleased with the diversity of this SSS panel versus panels convened in the past. There was good minority and school setting representation. The recommended study value for this test was 158. At this score point, a three-year national pool of test takers would have scored in the 89% pass range. This test will be used for initial licensing of new graduates of traditional teacher education preparation programs seeking licensure in elementary education.

This test will replace test 0016, which covers grades K-5. Mississippi has recently revised its standards to reflect a K-6 developmental range for elementary educators. Test 0011 reflects that range.

Test 0511 Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge

The recommended study value for this test was 154, which would put Mississippi at the high end of user state's passing scores. It would also reflect a passing percentage of 88% over three years of national test taker data. The panel also looked at lowering the passing score SEM below the recommended study value to 142, which would place Mississippi in the lower middle range of user states and would result in a 97% pass range nationally. This test will be used as an option for fully certified special education teachers seeking to obtain the highly qualified teacher status in the fundamental core academic subject areas as required by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

Recommendations

Test 0371 Special Education: Teaching Students with Behavior Disorders/Emotional Disturbance

The panelists decided unanimously to adopt a passing score of 150 that would place Mississippi in the lower middle range of user states and would result in an 89% pass range nationally.

Test 0011 Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

The panelists were comfortable accepting the recommended study value of 158, which would place Mississippi in the middle range of user states and would result in an 89% pass range nationally.

Test 0511 Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge

The panelists decided to accept a passing score of 142. This score would place Mississippi in the middle range of user states and would result in a 97% pass range nationally.

Next Steps

ETS is scheduled to attend the meeting of the state board of education to present the licensure commission's recommendations July 20, 2006. ETS and Cory Murphy will continue to work together to conduct new standard setting studies based upon the needs of the state, determining which of the existing test scores are in need of reevaluating and putting together an action plan to address the identified concerns.
