

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
August 16-17, 2007

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

19. Approval for the New Praxis II Test 0021 and Passing Score Required for the License in Child Development as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure Development. (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with no public comment).

Specifications:

On May 4, 2007, the Certification Commission voted to approve the new Praxis II test 0021 in Early Childhood Education as the new test required for licensure for the Child Development license (153). The Commission approved a cut score of 165 for this test as recommended by the Commission subcommittee.

Rationale:

The license in Child Development (#153) for Pre-Kindergarten – Kindergarten, allows a teacher holding a 153 license to teach preschool in Mississippi public schools. To earn this license, an applicant needs to complete a bachelor's degree in Child Development or Early Childhood Education from one of the four MS institutions that have these programs approved by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences or by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. At this time, Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi are the four institutions authorized for this license.

In addition to completing one of these approved degree programs, applicants for the 153 license must pass the Praxis I and the Praxis II subject area test for Early Childhood Education to be eligible for this license. Educational Testing Service (ETS) is discontinuing Praxis II test 0020 for Early Childhood that has been the approved test in Mississippi for this license. The Office of Educator Licensure initiated the process of validating a new Praxis test to replace the 0020 that is being discontinued.

Representatives from ETS conducted a standard setting study at the request of MDE for a new test for the Child Development license in

January of 2007. The study panel consisted of 20 MS teachers that currently hold the 153 license. This panel of Child Development teachers studied all the test questions for Praxis II test 0021 for Early Childhood Education and made the recommendation to approve this test.

A subcommittee of the Certification Commission met to review the findings of the standard test setting panel and make a recommendation to the Commission for a passing cut score. On May 4, 2007, the Commission approved the cut score of 165 recommended by the subcommittee.

Backup Material: Attached

Recommendation: Approval

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APPENDIX B: PRAXIS EXAMINATION SCORES REQUIRED BY MISSISSIPPI Praxis test numbers in bold print
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SPECIALTY AREA TEST CODE	SCALED SCORE
Art Education (0133)	139
Audiology (0340)	610
Biology (0235)	150
Business Education (0100)	560
Chemistry (0245)	151
Early Childhood Education (Child Development Pre-K and K only) (0020) (0021)	165
Elementary Education (K-8 and K-4) (0016)	135
Elementary Education (4-8) (0014) Alternate Route Only	153
Emotionally Disturbed (0370)	610
English Language and Literature (0041)	157
French (0171)	161
German (0182)	160
Guidance and Counseling (0420)	580
Hearing Disability (0271)	151
Home Economics (0120)	560
Technology Education (0050)	560
Marketing (0560)	590
Mathematics (0061)	123
Library Media Specialist (0310)	590
Middle Grade Math (0069)	140
Middle Grade Language Arts (0049)	145
Middle Grade Social Studies (0089)	140
Middle Grade Science (0439)	135
Music Education (0113)	139
Physical Education (0091)	138
Physics (0265)	139
School Leaders Licensure Assessment (1010)	154
School Psychologist (0400)	590
Social Studies (0081)	143
Spanish (0192)	155
Special Education (0353)	136
Special Education (7-12) (0352) Alternate Route Only	139
Special Education Fundamental Subjects HQ (0511)	142
Speech Communication (0220)	510
Speech/Language Pathology (0330)	600
Visually Impaired (0280)	660

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**APPENDIX C:
PRAXIS I & PRAXIS II PLT SCORES**

PRAXIS I REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE		PASSING SCORE
PRE-PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TEST (PPST)		
Reading (0710)		170
Writing (0720)		172
Mathematics (0730)		169

COMPUTERIZED PPST		PASSING SCORE
Reading (5710)		170
Writing (5720)		172
Mathematics (5730)		169

PRAXIS II REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE
(For Approved Teacher Education Program Candidates only)

PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING AND TEACHING (PLT)		PASSING SCORE
Grade Level K-6 (0522)		152
Grade Level 5-9 (0523)		152
Grade Level 7-12 (0524)		152

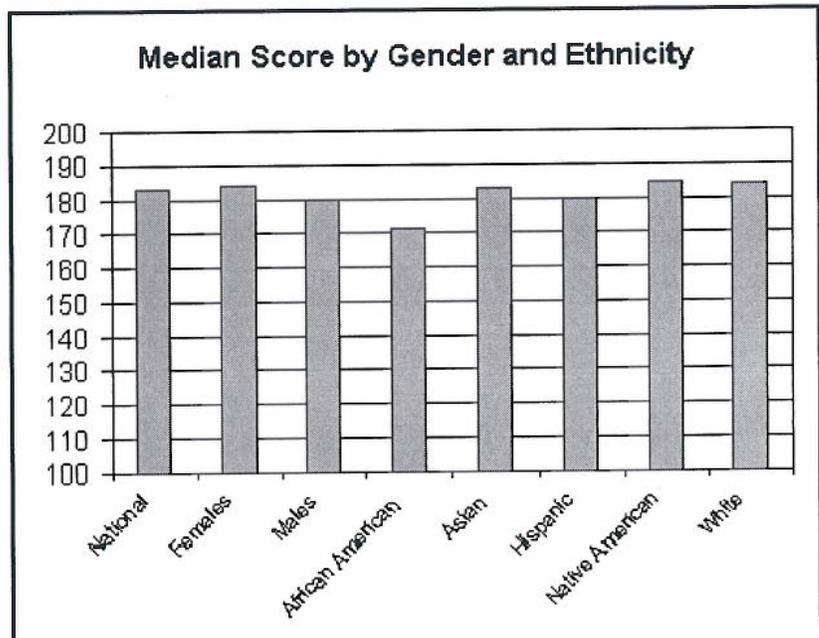
Test Information - 2005-2006 Total Examinees
September 1, 2005-August 31, 2006

TEST CODE	0021	TEST NAME	Education of Young Children
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COUNTS	GENDER		ETHNICITY				
	Females	Males	African American	Asian	Hispanic	Native American	White
Total	6,877	330	401	67	70	48	6,009

MEDIAN SCORE	
National	183
Females	184
Males	180
African American	171
Asian	183
Hispanic	180
Native American	184.5
White	184

Scores in Effect as of 1/1/07



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STATE	PASSING SCORE
District of Columbia	174
Kansas	172
Washington	170
Idaho	169
Utah	168
Maine	166
Missouri	166
Ohio	166
Arkansas	164
Hawaii	160
South Carolina	158
Tennessee	155
South Dakota	148

NOTES:

State passing scores listed in the table do not include states that use multiple passing scores, multiple test composite scores or states that have no minimum passing score.

A state and score listed in *Italics* indicates a score used for Highly Qualified Status Only.

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**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
MAY 4, 2007**

Participants

Mississippi Score Setting Study (SSS) Education of Young Children Panelists

Tina Scholtes, Member, Teacher Licensing Commission
Don Garrett, Member, Teacher Licensing Commission
Jerry J. Morgan, Member, Teacher Licensing Commission

Mississippi Department of Education Staff

Cindy Coon, Director, Office of Educator Licensure

ETS Staff

Cory Murphy, Director, Client Relations, Praxis

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting was to review data generated for the Praxis II Education of Young Children test used for licensing Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) teachers in the state of Mississippi. This was done in an effort to yield a recommended passing score for final approval by the Mississippi State Board of Education. Prior to the score review, panelists were presented a brief overview of the test development process. This was completed to provide the attendees with background information as to how we had arrived at the role that they were called together to play in the test adoption process. Discussion regarding the test reviewed is available in the subsequent section below.

MEETING PROCEDURE

The meeting proceeded in accordance with the following agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Steps to Test Development and State Adoption Process

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- Distribution, Review, and Discussion of Score Setting Study Materials
- Adjourn

Discussion and Recommendations

Praxis II: Education of Young Children (Recommended Score: 165)

The panelist began the discussion with questions regarding the supply and demand of Pre-K educators in the state. The response rendered was that there are currently four (4) early childhood certification programs offered in the state at this time. The number of Pre-K educators being produced by the colleges/universities is very small. This is in part due to the fact that Pre-K is not a component of the public educational structure in this state at present. However, it was stated that the state has proposed its new educational initiative, to include Pre-K as part of its educational structure. This proposed initiative has caused other universities/colleges in the state to proactively pursue the development and implementation of early childhood certification programs in anticipation of an increased demand in the near future. After in depth discussion, the score review process began.

First, panelists reviewed the TAAG provided for test 0021. Second, test information sheets and three year rolling data were distributed and discussed. This is a test that is new to the state therefore; state specific data were not available for review. Third, panelists reviewed and discussed the recommended study value and + and -1 & 2 SEM data information provided from the standard setting study that was conducted for the Education of Young Children assessment.

The recommended score range yielded from the SSS was from a -1 SEM of 156 to a +2 SEM of 183. The consensus of the group was to make the recommendation to adopt a score of 165. The panelists arrived at this conclusion noting the following:

- Recommendation that the state review the state specific test-taker performance data after one year to determine whether there is a need to increase or decrease the adopted score;
- The Praxis II Assessment: Education of Young Children (Test 0021) is new to the state therefore; panelist did not want to set score too high without knowing how teachers prepared in Mississippi's four early childhood certification preparation programs would perform;
- If score is set at 165, it would yield a 97% passage rate based on three year rolling national data;

Next Steps

- The reports from score setting studies with recommendations will be forwarded to the Mississippi Department of Education personnel to undergo their score adoption protocol.

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- After receiving final approval by the state board of education, test adoption forms will be forwarded to and completed by the state department.
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