

**OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Items**  
**August 20-21, 2009**

**EDUCATOR LICENSURE**

**Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act Process:**

**To Approve the New School Leadership Licensure Assessment (SLLA) Examination 1011 and Proposed Passing Score as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure**

**Specifications:**

On July 10, 2009, the Certification Commission approved the new School Leadership Licensure Assessment (SLLA) test 1011 for Administrative licensure in Mississippi and makes the recommendation to the State Board to approve this test with a recommended passing score of 169. The SLLA has been required for Administrative certification in MS for many years. The current approved SLLA test 1010 has been discontinued by Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the 1011 SLLA has been validated to replace the 1010.

**Background Information:**

For several years, the ETS data for the SLLA 1010 has shown that the passing percentages were very high (98%), not just in Mississippi, but in all states that use that test. Two years ago, the State Board approved the proposal to raise the passing score in MS from 154 to 165. Even with this increase, the percentage of SLLA test takers for MS was around 88%. Many states asked ETS to do a study of this test. The SLLA 1010 was all constructed response questions (essay) and lasted about 6 hours. The test was also quite expensive – around \$460. In 2008, ETS began the validation process for a replacement test for administrators. The recommended new test, the 1011 SLLA is a combination of multiple choice (100) and constructed response and lasts about 4 hours. ETS has also lowered the cost of the test. In the spring of 2009, ETS hosted two standard setting studies nationally. Mississippi administrators participated on these two panels. We sent currently practicing principals and one Educational Leadership professor to sit on a panel in Baltimore, Maryland, and in St. Louis, Missouri. They examined and discussed the effectiveness of the proposed test and actually took the tests themselves. ETS distributed a report from these standard settings with the findings of the panels regarding the effectiveness of this new test. Our Certification Commission established a subcommittee to study the standard setting report and bring a recommended cut score back to the Commission. The report from this subcommittee meeting is attached.

The new SLLA test 1011 will be administered for the first time in September of 2009. The old test 1010 has been removed from the approved list of tests offered at ETS. The Commission is recommending approval of the 1011 SLLA test and the passing score of 169. If approved, the test and the new score will be in place when prospective administrators take this exam in September.

**Attachments:**

1. Commission subcommittee report from test score recommendation meeting
2. Page 31 of the Licensure guidelines showing current test score requirements
3. Test at a Glance – ETS description and snapshot of new 1011 SLLA test

# Mississippi Department of Education (MDE)

Jackson, Mississippi

June 12, 2009

## *Participants*

### **MDE Staff**

Cindy Coon, Bureau Director, Office of Educator Licensure

### **Passing Score Recommending Panel**

Subcommittee of the Mississippi Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development:

Dr. Jerry Morgan

Dr. Anthony Morris

Johnny Donaldson

### **ETS Staff**

Dr. Cory Murphy, Senior Client Management-Lead, Praxis

Mississippi Observer on the Regional Standard Setting Panel

Dr. Gerald Hasselman, Educational Leadership Chair, MS College

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## **Purpose of Meeting**

The subcommittee was convened to examine the standard setting study results of and make passing score recommendations for the new School Leadership Licensure Assessment (SLLA) test 1011 used as an Administrator licensure requirement in the state of Mississippi. The SLLA currently adopted in MS is being discontinued by ETS and replaced by the 1011 test. The subcommittee served as the beginning of the third step in a three-step test adoption process. During the score setting session, the panel looked at a variety of materials related to the assessment.

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## **Meeting Procedure**

Cindy Coon welcomed the panelists, shared with them the purpose of the meeting, and thanked them for their participation. Mrs. Coon then turned the meeting over to Dr. Cory Murphy. Dr. Murphy began by walking the panel through the test development process that ETS uses. He described how ETS utilizes content experts in every step of the development process. He then explained the task of the score recommending panel so that panelists clearly understood their charge. Dr. Murphy explained that since the 1011 SLLA is a new test, ETS would not be able to provide national or rolling data as is normally done in a standard setting. Materials reviewed by panelists to inform their recommendations were:

- Test At A Glance (Test Specification and Test Preparation Tool for Test taker)
- Test Information Sheet
- National/Regional Standard Setting Study Results



After all materials were reviewed for test, panelists participated in an open discussion. State specific performance data was not available because the test has not been administered for the state of MS at this time. Panelists requested to review data and percentages of scores on the current 1010 SLLA that has been used prior to this new test. The purpose of this review was to get a sense of the percentages of our present SLLA test takers from both traditional Educational Leadership programs and from the MAPQSL alternate route administrator programs and see how these test takers fared on the current administrator exam. The panelists heard a report by Dr. Hasselman, who served as an observer for our state at one of the regional standard settings of the new test. At this regional meeting, Dr. Hasselman was given the opportunity to take the new test himself and gave his impressions of the new test to the panel.

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### **Discussion and Recommendation**

After a discussion by the panelists, based on the testimony by Dr. Hasselman and the current state statistics, the Subcommittee's recommended passing score for the new 1011 SLLA exam is 169.

Panelists also recommend that a score review session be conducted after one full year, which would include four administrations of the exam to Mississippi candidates. This review would be to determine whether to raise, lower, or leave the current score the same based upon MS' performance.

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### **Next Steps**

Recommendations made by the subcommittee will be presented to the full licensure commission for approval on July 10, 2009 and then forwarded to the Mississippi State Board of Education for approval.

Mrs. Coon will notify and provide Dr. Murphy with the pertinent paperwork to have the assessments added to the state's list of approved and required licensure tests after they have received final board approval in late summer.

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| <p align="center"><b>APPENDIX B:</b><br/> <b>PRAXIS EXAMINATION SCORES REQUIRED BY MISSISSIPPI</b><br/> <b>Praxis test numbers in bold print</b></p> |
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| <b>SPECIALTY AREA TEST CODE</b>                                       | <b>SCALED SCORE</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 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) (0021) | 165                 |
| Elementary Education (K-6) (0011)                                     | 158                 |
| Elementary Education (4-8) (0014) <b>Alternate Route Only</b>         | 153                 |
| Emotionally Disturbed/Behavior Disorders (0371)                       | 150                 |
| English Language and Literature (0041)                                | 157                 |
| French (0171)                                                         | 161                 |
| German (0182)                                                         | 160                 |
| Guidance and Counseling (0420)                                        | 580                 |
| Hearing Disability (0271)                                             | 151                 |
| Home Economics/Family & Consumer Science (0121)                       | 153                 |
| Technology Education (0050)                                           | 560                 |
| Marketing (0561)                                                      | 151                 |
| Mathematics (0061)                                                    | 123                 |
| Library Media Specialist (0310)                                       | 590                 |
| Middle Grade Math (0069) <i>supplemental only</i>                     | 140                 |
| Middle Grade Language Arts (0049) <i>supplemental only</i>            | 145                 |
| Middle Grade Social Studies (0089) <i>supplemental only</i>           | 140                 |
| Middle Grade Science (0439) <i>supplemental only</i>                  | 135                 |
| Music Education (0113)                                                | 139                 |
| Physical Education (0091)                                             | 138                 |
| Physics (0265)                                                        | 139                 |
| <b>School Leaders Licensure Assessment (1011)</b>                     | <b>169</b>          |
| School Psychologist (0401)                                            | 154                 |
| Social Studies (0081)                                                 | 143                 |
| Spanish (0192)                                                        | 155                 |
| Special Education (0353)                                              | 136                 |
| Special Education <b>Alternate Route Only (0352)</b>                  | 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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| <p align="center"><b>APPENDIX C:</b><br/> <b>PRAXIS I &amp; PRAXIS II PLT SCORES</b></p> |
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| <b>PRAXIS I REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE</b> |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>PRE-PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TEST</b>                 | <b>PASSING SCORE</b> |
| Reading (0710 or 5710)                              | 170                  |
| Writing (0720 or 5720)                              | 172                  |
| Mathematics (0730 or 5730)                          | 169                  |

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

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