

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS
Summary of State Board of Education Items
October 22-23, 2009

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

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 (cleared APA with no public comment)

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

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.

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 setting sessions. 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 setting sessions.

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.

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.

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.

APPENDIX B:
PRAXIS EXAMINATION SCORES REQUIRED BY MISSISSIPPI
Praxis test numbers in bold print

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) (0021)	165
Elementary Education (K-6) (0011)	158
Elementary Education (4-8) (0014) Alternate Route Only	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
School Leaders Licensure Assessment (1011)	169
School Psychologist (0401)	154
Social Studies (0081)	143
Spanish (0192)	155
Special Education (0353)	136
Special Education Alternate Route Only (0352)	139
Special Education Fundamental Subjects HQ (0511)	142
Speech Communication (0220)	510
Speech/Language Pathology (0330)	600
Visually Impaired (0280)	660

APPENDIX C:
PRAXIS I & PRAXIS II PLT SCORES

PRAXIS I REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE	
PRE-PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TEST	PASSING SCORE
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)

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