# **05-071 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **Chapter 13: QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR TEACHERS, EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS AND ADMINISTRATORS**

**Summary:** This chapter establishes qualifying examination requirements for teachers, educational specialists, and administrators seeking initial certification in Maine. There are two types of initial certificates: conditional and professional.

Applicants for professional teacher certification must attain minimum qualifying scores on the Core Academic Skills for Educators, also known as PRAXIS I, in the basic skill areas of reading, writing, and mathematics~~,~~ on the appropriate content area PRAXIS II exam, and on the appropriate Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) exam.

Applicants seeking initial administrator certification have the option of completing the School Leaders Licensure Assessment or the School Superintendent Assessment in lieu of coursework to meet some competency requirements in accordance with Chapter 115 Part II.

**13.1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Chapter is to establish the standard qualifying examinations and scores for applicants for initial teacher certificates, for initial educational specialist certificates, and for initial administrator certificates.

**13.2 DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

A. **Administrator**: “Administrator” means an individual certified to provide services in any of the following capacities: superintendent or assistant superintendent of schools, a principal or assistant principal, a teaching principal, a director or assistant director of special education, a director or assistant director of career and technical education, a curriculum coordinator, an instructional supervisor, and a director or assistant director of adult and community education.

B. **Assessment**: “Assessment” means the appropriate tests as determined by the State Board of Education.

C. **Commissioner**: “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Department of Education or a designee.

1. D. **Conditional Certificate**: “Conditional Certificate” means the three-year certificate issued to teachers, educational specialists, and administrators who have not met all requirements for a professional certificate or new endorsementissued pursuant to Chapter 115 Part I, Certification Authorization and Approval of Educational Personnel.

E. **Department**: “Department” means the Department of Education.

F. **Educational Specialist**: “Educational Specialist” means an individual certified to provide professional services in any of the following capacities: athletic director, school counselor, library-media specialist, literacy specialist, school psychologist, school nurse, special education consultant, speech-language clinician, or career and technical education evaluator.

G. **Endorsement**: "Endorsement" means a notation on a certificate issued to a teacher that specifies the grades and subject area or work area for which the certificate is valid. A certificate may bear one or more endorsements.

H. **Initial Certification**: “Initial Certification” means the initial credential issued for certification to an individual who has never held the certificate or the endorsement previously in Maine. An initial certificate could be a conditional or professional certificate.

I. **Professional Certificate**: “Professional certificate” means the regular five-year certificate issued by the Department on or after July 1, 1988.

**13.3 QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR INITIAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION REQUIRING A BACHELOR’S DEGREE**

3.1 **Examination Components**

For applicants for an initial professional teacher certificate requiring a bachelor’s degree, the examinations validated for use in this program are the Core Academic Skills for Educators, PRAXIS II, and Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) unless waived. The Core Academic Skills for Educators program has three major components which test the applicant in three basic skill areas: reading, writing, and mathematics.

3.2 **Examination Sequence**

The Educational Testing Service schedules the Core Academic Skills for Educators, PRAXIS II and Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) at sites across Maine and the nation. The applicant registers for the examinations directly with the Educational Testing Service.

A. An applicant may take the major components of the Core Academic Skills for Educators at separate times.

B. An applicant who fails to meet the qualifying scores requirement for any component of the Core Academic Skills for Educators, or PRAXIS II or the Principles of Learning and Teaching may retake the exam at scheduled examination sessions as often as allowed by the vendor’s retake policies to meet the requirements.

3.3 **Qualifying Scores**

Applicants for initial professional teacher certification requiring a bachelor’s degree must achieve the qualifying scores on the qualifying examinations as set forth below, if the examination is required in Chapter 115 Part II.

A. The qualifying scores on the Core Academic Skills for Educators \* for individuals requiring a bachelor’s degree are as follows:

#### Reading Test #5712 156

Writing Test #5722 162

Mathematics Test #5732 150

Applicants for initial professional teacher certification must achieve a composite score of 468 on the three sections of the Core Academic Skills for Educators, with no single score on any section being more than three points lower than the required score above.

\*Applicants for certificates requiring bachelor’s degrees may use passing scores on either the Pre-Professional Skills Test/PPST or the Core Academic Skills for Educators until 8-31-18. As of 9-1-18, all applicants must meet passing scores on the Core Academic Skills for Educators exams.

1. The qualifying scores on PRAXIS II content area exams are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **End./Cert. Code** | **Endorsement or Certificate** | **Grade Level** | **PRAXIS II TEST Code** | **PRAXIS II** | **Minimum Score** |
| 081 | Early Childhood Teacher | Birth to Age 5 | 5024\*\*\*\*\* | Educ. of Young Children | 160\*\*\*\*\* |
| 020 | General Elementary | K-8 | 5001\*\*\* (comprised of 5002,5003,5004, and 5005 | Elem. School: CK  Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects | 5001\*\*\*:  5002-157  5003-157  5004-155  5005-159 |
| 029 | Early Elementary | K-3 | 5024 | Educ. Of Young Children | 160 |
| 071 | Library/Media Specialist | K-12 | 5311 | Library/Media Specialist | 143 |
| 075 | Guidance Counselor | K-12 | 5421 | Professional School Counselor | 156 |
| 092 | Literacy Specialist | K-12 | 5301 | Reading Specialist | 164 |
| 100 | Secondary English | 7-12 | 5038 | English/Language Arts: Content Knowledge | 167 |
| 100 | Middle English | 5-8 | 5047 | Middle School English/Language Arts | 164 |
| 200 | Secondary Social Studies | 7-12 | 5081 | Social Studies: CK | 157 |
| 200 | Middle Social Studies | 5-8 | 0089 | Middle Social Studies | 153 |
| 282 | Teacher Disabled Children | Birth to Age 5 | 5691 | Special Education; Preschool/Early Childhood | 159 |
| 282 | Teacher Disabled Children | K-12 | 5354 | Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications | 151 |
| 286 | Students w/ Severe Disabilities | K-12 | 5545\*\*\*\*\* | Special Education: Core Knowledge and Severe to Profound Applications | 158 |
| 291 | Blind/Visually Impaired | K-12 | 5282 | Special Education: Visual Impairments | 163 |
| 292 | Deaf/Hearing Impaired | K-12 | 5272 | Special Education: Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students | 160 |
| 293 | Speech & Hearing Clinician | b-12 | 5881 | Teaching Speech to Students w/Language Impairments | 152 |
| 300 | Secondary Mathematics | 7-12 | 5165 | Mathematics: CK | 160 |
| 300 | Middle Mathematics | 5-8 | 5164 | Middle School Mathematics | 165 |
| 340 | Middle Science | 5-8 | 5440 | Middle School Science | 150 |
| 350 | Secondary Physical Science | 7-12 | 5245  Or  5265  Or  5435 | Chemistry: CK  Or  Physics: CK  Or  General Science: CK | 151  141  153 |
| 395 | Secondary Life Science | 7-12 | 5235 | Biology: CK | 150 |
| 410 | Latin | K-12 | 5601 | Latin | 152 |
| 420 | French | K-12 | 5174\* | French: World Language | 162 |
| 430 | German | K-12 | 5183 | German: World Language | 163 |
| 440 | Spanish | K-12 | 5195 \* | Spanish: World Language | 168 |
| 470 | Chinese | K-12 | 5665 | Chinese (Mandarin): World Language | 164 |
| 510 | Physical Education | K-12 | 5091 | Physical Education: CK | 149 |
| 520 | Health | K-12 | 0551/5551 | Health Education | 156 |
| 614 | Music | K-12 | 5133\* | Music: CK | 151 |
| 620 | Visual Arts | K-12 | 5134 | Art: CK | 158 |
| 625 | Theater | K-12 | 5641 | Theatre | 146 |
| 640 | Business Education | K-12 | 5101 | Business Education | 154 |
| 660 | ESL | K-12 | 5362 | English to Speakers of Other Languages | 144 |
| 670 | Family & Consumer Science | K-12 | 5122\*\*\*\*\* | Family & Consumer Science | 153 |
| 690 | Gifted & Talented | K-12 | 5358 | Gifted Education | 157 |
| 700 | Industrial Arts | K-12 | 5051 | Technology Education | 159 |

\*\*\*\*\* Applicants for #081 Early Childhood (0-5) and #029 Early Elementary (K-3) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0021 or PRAXIS II Test Code 5024 until 8-31-19. As of 9-1-19, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 5024.

\*\*\*\*\* Applicants for #286 Teacher of Students with Severe Disabilities (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0321 or PRAXIS II Test Code 5545 until 8-31-19. As of 9-1-19, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 5545.

\*\*\*\*\* Applicants for #670 Family and Consumer Science (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0121 or PRAXIS II Test Code 5122 until 8-31-19. As of 9-1-19, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 5122.

C. The qualifying scores on Principles of Learning and Teaching are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Endorsement or Certificate**  **Grade Level** | **Principles of Learning & Teaching Test Code** | **Minimum Score** |
| Early Childhood-3 | 5621 | 157 |
| K-8 | 5622 | 160 |
| 5-8 | 5623 | 160 |
| 7-12 | 5624 | 157 |
| K-12 | 5622 or 5624 | 5622: 160 or  5624: 157 |
| 9-12 | 5624 | 157 |

3.4 **PRAXIS II Content Area Examinations Are Not Available**

Applicants for initial teacheror educational specialist certification will not be required to take a PRAXIS II examination if the appropriate examination is not available.

3.5 **Conditional Certificates**

Applicants who have not achieved Maine’s qualifying scores on the required Core Academic Skills for Educators are eligible for an initial conditional certificate provided they have met all other requirements for the certificate or endorsement in accordance with Chapter 115 Part I and Chapter 115 Part II.

A certificate issued under this subsection may not be suspended or revoked by the Commissioner due to the holder’s failure to attain qualifying scores during the term of the initial conditional certificate.

3.6 **Individuals with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities that prevent them from taking the examination(s) under standard conditions may request special accommodations directly through the Educational Testing Service. The documentation requirements and accommodation request procedures are described in the registration bulletin for the specific examinations.

3.7 **Pre-lingually Deaf Applicants**

Applicants receiving an initial teacher of deaf or hearing impaired student endorsement under Chapter 115 Part II Section 2.2will not be required to take the Core Academic Skills for Educators, PRAXIS II content area assessment or the Principles of Learning and Teaching examination, if they meet the following criteria:

1. Applicant provides documentation that he/she is pre-lingually deaf;

2. Applicant provides documentation that he/she has graduated from a state or national approved program for teacher of deaf children; and

3. Applicant provides documentation that he/she is proficient in American Sign Language.

3.8 **Out-of-State Certified Teachers and Educational Specialists**

Applicants holding a current teaching certificate from another state who are seeking a teaching certificate in the same endorsement area will not be required to take the Core Academic Skills for Educators or Principles of Learning and Teaching examinations.

Applicants holding a current educational specialist certificate from another state who are seeking a certificate in the same area will not be required to take the Principles of Learning and Teaching examination.

**13.4 QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR TEACHING CERTIFICATES NOT REQUIRING A BACHELOR’S DEGREE**

4.1 **Examination Components**

For applicants for an initial teacher professional certificate not requiring a bachelor’s degree, the examinations validated for use in this program are the Core Academic Skills for Educators, PRAXIS II, and Principles of Learning and Teaching. The Core Academic Skills for Educators program has three major components which test the applicant in three basic skill areas: reading, writing, and mathematics.

4.2 **Examination Sequence**

The Educational Testing Service schedules the Core Academic Skills for Educators, PRAXIS II and Principles of Learning and Teaching at sites across Maine and the nation. The applicant registers for the examinations directly with the Educational Testing Service.

1. An applicant may take the major components of the Core Academic Skills for Educators at separate times.

B. An applicant who fails to meet the qualifying scores requirement for any component of the Core Academic Skills for Educators or PRAXIS II or the Principles of Learning and Teaching may retake the exam at scheduled examination sessions as often as allowed by the vendor’s retake policies to meet the requirements.

4.3 **Qualifying Scores**

Applicants for initial teacher professional certification not requiring a bachelor’s degree must achieve the qualifying score the qualifying examinations as set forth below.

1. The qualifying scores on the Core Academic Skills for Educators \* for individuals not requiring a bachelor’s degree are as follows:

**Subject Scale Scores**

Reading Test #5712 153

Writing Test #5722 156

Mathematics Test #5732 147

Applicants for initial professional teacher certification must achieve a composite score of 456 on the three sections of the Core Academic Skills for Educators, with no single score on any section being more than three points lower than the required score above.

\*Applicants for certificates not requiring bachelor’s degrees may use passing scores on either the Pre-Professional Skills Test/PPST or the Core Academic Skills for Educators until 8-31-18. As of 9-1-18, all applicants must meet passing scores on the Core Academic Skills for Educators exams.

### The qualifying score on PRAXIS II content area exam for all Career and Technical Education endorsements is as follows (unless exempt according to provisions in Chapter 115, Part II):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Endorsement Certificate** | **Grade Level** | **PRAXIS II Test Code** | **PRAXIS II** | **Minimum Score** |
| **All Career & Technical Education** | 9-12 | 5511 | Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge | 150 |

C. Applicants for initial teacher certification with a Career and Technical Education (9-12) endorsement must take the Principles of Learning and Teaching (7 – 12) \* examination.

4.4 **Conditional Certification**

Applicants who have not achieved Maine’s qualifying scores on the required qualifying examinations are eligible for an initial conditional certificate, provided they have met all other requirements for a conditional certificate in accordance with Chapter 115 Part I and Chapter 115 Part II.

A conditional certificate issued under this subsection may not be suspended or revoked by the Commissioner due to the holder’s failure to attain qualifying scores during the term of the conditional certificate.

4.5 Applicants holding a valid career and technical education endorsement who are seeking an additional career and technical education endorsement will not be required to take the Core Academic Skills for Educators or Principles of Learning and Teaching examinations.

4.6 Applicants holding a valid K-3, K-8, 5-8, 7-12, or K-12 endorsement who are seeking a career and technical education endorsement will not be required to take the Core Academic Skills for Educators or Principles of Learning and Teaching examinations.

4.7 **Individuals with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities that prevent them from taking the examination(s) under standard conditions may request special accommodations directly through the Educational Testing Service. The documentation requirements and accommodation request procedures are described in the registration bulletin for the specific examinations.

4.8 **Native Language Endorsement**

Applicants receiving an initial Native Language endorsement under Chapter 115 Part II Section 5.1 Pathway 2will not be required to take the Core Academic Skills for Educators or the Principles of Learning and Teaching examination.

Applicants for an initial Native Language endorsement will not be required to take a PRAXIS II examination until the appropriate examination is available. Applicants receiving a provisional or professional certificate with a Native Language endorsement prior to a minimum score being set will not need to meet the passing score ~~at a later date.~~

**13.5 QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATORS**

5.1 Applicants for an initial superintendent or an initial assistant superintendent certificate, may complete the School Superintendent Assessment to meet the knowledge areas in accordance with Chapter 115 Part II**.**

The School Superintendent Assessment is an alternative pathway to meeting specified knowledge areas and is not a requirement for each applicant.

5.2 **Examination Sequence**

The Educational Testing Service schedules the School Superintendent Assessment at sites across Maine and the nation. The applicant registers for the examination directly with the Educational Testing Service.

An applicant may retake the examination at scheduled examination sessions as often as allowed by the vendor’s retake policies to meet the requirements.

* 1. **Qualifying Scores**

The qualifying score on the School Superintendent Assessment (test code #6021) for individuals seeking a superintendent or assistant superintendent certificate is 160~~\*~~.

5.4 Applicants for an initial administrator certificate other than superintendent or assistant superintendent may complete the School Leaders Licensure Assessment to meet the knowledge areas in accordance with Chapter 115 Part II.

The School Leaders Licensure Assessment is an alternative pathway to meeting specified knowledge areas and is not a requirement for each applicant.

5.5 **Examination Sequence**

The Educational Testing Service schedules the School Leaders Licensure Assessment at sites across Maine and the nation. The applicant registers for the examination directly with the Educational Testing Service.

An applicant may retake the examination at scheduled examination sessions as often as allowed by the vendor’s retake policies to meet the requirements.

5.6 **Qualifying Scores**

The qualifying score on the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (code 6012) for individuals seeking an administrator certificate other than a superintendent or assistant superintendent certificate is 163.

5.7 **Individuals with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities that prevent them from taking the examination under standard conditions may request special accommodations directly through the Educational Testing Service. The documentation requirements and accommodation request procedures are described in the registration bulletin for the specific examination.

**13.6 CERTIFICATION RECORDS**

6.1 **Records**

The score on the teacher qualifying examination shall become part of the teacher’s certification records. Only the final qualifying score will be retained in the applicant’s record.

6.2 **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality of certification records shall be governed by the provisions of Title 20-A, Section 13004.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 13031-13038 and 13035-A

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CORRECTION:

April 5, 2022 – page 4 in two rows 300 for PRAXIS II Test Code, Secondary Mathematics and Middle Mathematics, changed to 5165 and 5164