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| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |

**Agenda Item: L**

**Date: November 18, 2021**

**Topic: First Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure’s** **Recommendation for a Passing Score for the Praxis® Middle School Mathematics (5164) Test for the Middle Education 6-8 Mathematics Endorsement**

### Presenter: Dr. Joan Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure

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**Purpose of Presentation:**

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

# **Executive Summary:**

The proposed recommendation from the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure is to set a passing score for the **Praxis® Middle School Mathematics (5164) Test** for the Middle Education 6-8 Mathematics endorsement. This test will be required for individuals seeking initial licensure unless exempted by holding a full, clear out-of-state license with no deficiencies and can be taken and passed to add an endorsement in Middle Education 6-8 Mathematics by individuals holding a valid renewable teaching license.

Attached are the Multistate Standard-Setting Technical Report - Praxis® Middle School Mathematics (5164)Test, the Virginia Study Summary Report, and the Praxis® Study Companion.

This item supports Priority 2 of the Board of Education’s [Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/plan/comprehensive-plan.pdf).

**Action Requested:**

Action will be requested at a future meeting. Specify anticipated date below:

January 27, 2022

**Superintendent’s Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board receive for first review the recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to establish a cut score for the Praxis® Middle School Mathematics (5164)Test.

**Previous Review or Action:**

No previous review or action.

# **Background Information and Statutory Authority**:

Currently, the Board requires the following assessments for initial licensure:

• Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA);

• Praxis Subject Assessments; and

• Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE) for specified endorsements.

The Board prescribes the Praxis Subject Assessments as a professional teacher’s assessment requirement for initial licensure in Virginia. The current Board of Education’s prescribed assessment for middle education mathematics is the Praxis® Middle School Mathematics (5169).

The Praxis® Middle School Mathematics (5164) test will replace the Praxis® Middle School Mathematics (5169) test. This new assessment is designed and developed through work with practicing teachers and teacher educators to reflect the mathematics curriculum as well as state and national standards for mathematics, including the Standards for the Preparation of Middle Level Mathematics Teachers (2020), by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the Council of the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

In January 2021, a multistate standard-setting study was designed and conducted by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to support the decision-making process of education agencies establishing a passing score (cut score) for the Praxis® Middle School Mathematics (5164) test.

Panelists from 12 states and Washington, D.C., participated on the panel. The education agencies recommended panelists with (a) experience as either middle school mathematics teachers or college faculty who prepare middle school mathematics teachers and (b) familiarity with the knowledge and skills required of beginning middle school mathematics teachers.

Virginia did not participate in the multi-state standard study. Instead, ETS facilitated a panel discussion with six Virginia educators that mirrored the multi-state standard study in April 2021. The Virginia report reflects that the panel agreed with the recommended cut score of the multi-state study.

A detailed summary of the study, Multistate Standard-Setting Technical Report -- PRAXIS® MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS (5164) is attached, as well as the Virginia report. The technical report contains three sections. The first section describes the content and format of the test. The second section describes the standard-setting processes and methods. The third section presents the results of the standard-setting study.

The [Praxis® Middle School Mathematics Study Companion](https://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5164.pdf) document describes the purpose and structure of the test. In brief, the test measures knowledge and competencies that are important for safe and effective beginning practice as a middle school mathematics teacher. The three-hour assessment contains 66 selected-response items covering five content areas: *Numbers and Operations* (approximately 16 items), *Algebra* (approximately 15 items), *Functions* (approximately 11 items), *Geometry and Measurement* (approximately 13 items), and *Statistics and Probability* (approximately 11 items). The reporting scale for the *Praxis* Middle School Mathematics test ranges from 100 to 200 scale-score points.

### Multistate Standard-Setting Study

The Multistate standard-setting study for the Praxis® Middle School Mathematics (5164) test is detailed in the attached report.

The following table presents the estimated conditional standard error of measurement (CSEM) around the recommended passing score. A standard error represents the uncertainty associated with a test score. The scale scores associated with one and two CSEM above and below the recommended passing score are provided. The conditional standard error of measurement provided is an estimate.

**Conditional Standard Error of Measurement Summaries**

**PRAXIS® MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS (5164)**

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|  | **Raw Score** | **Scale Score Equivalent** |
| *Recommended passing score (CSEM)* | ***38 (3.76)*** | ***157*** |
| - 2 CSEM | 31 | 141 |
| - 1 CSEM | 35 | 150 |
| +1 CSEM | 42 | 166 |
| +2 CSEM | 46 | 175 |

ETS provides a recommended passing score from the multistate standard-setting study to help

education agencies determine an appropriate operational passing score. For the Praxis Middle School Mathematics test, the recommended passing score is 38 out of a possible 60 raw-score points. The scale score associated with a raw score of 38 is 157 on a 100–200 scale.

On October 27, 2021, information regarding the multistate standard-setting process was presented to the Advisory Board members by Malik K. McKinley, Sr.,Director of Client Relations, Professional Educator Programs, Office for Teacher Licensure and Certification, Student and Teacher Assessment Division, Educational Testing Service.The Advisory Board members reviewed the standard-setting report and recommended that the Board approve the passing score of 150 (-1 CSEM below the standard setting panel’s recommendation).

The *Code of Virginia* provides the authority for the Board of Education to promulgate *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*.

Section[**22.1-298.1**](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter15/section22.1-298.1/) of the *Code of Virginia*, states in part, the following:

§ [**22.1-298.1**](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter15/section22.1-298.1/) **Regulations governing licensure.**

*C. The Board of Education's regulations shall include requirements that a person seeking initial licensure:*

*1. Demonstrate proficiency in the relevant content area, communication, literacy, and other core skills for educators by achieving a qualifying score on professional assessments or meeting alternative evaluation standards as prescribed by the Board;*

*2. Complete study in attention deficit disorder;*

*3. Complete study in gifted education, including the use of multiple criteria to identify gifted students; and*

*4. Complete study in methods of improving communication between schools and families and ways of increasing family involvement in student learning at home and at school.*

*Code of Virginia,* Section [22.1-16. Bylaws and regulations generally.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter2/section22.1-16/)

*Code of Virginia,* Section [22.1-299. License required of teachers.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter15/section22.1-299/)

*Code of Virginia,* Section [22.1-305.2. Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter15/section22.1-305.2/)

The [*Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter23/) state, in part, the following:

## [8VAC20-22-40](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter23/section40/). Conditions for Licensure.

*… B. All candidates who hold at least a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and who seek an initial Virginia teaching license shall obtain passing scores on professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education. With the exception of the career switcher program that requires assessments as prerequisites, individuals shall complete the professional teacher's assessment requirements within the three-year validity of the initial provisional license….*

## [8VAC20-22-70](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter23/section70/). Additional Endorsements.

1. *An individual who holds a teaching license may add an additional teaching endorsement to the license by passing a rigorous academic subject test for endorsements in which a test is prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education. This testing option does not apply to individuals (i) who are seeking an early/primary education preK-3 or elementary education preK-6 endorsement, special education endorsements, or a reading specialist endorsement or (ii) who hold a Technical Professional License, Vocational Evaluator License, Pupil Personnel Services License, School Manager License, or Division Superintendent License.*

 **Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

It is anticipated that this item will come back to the Board for final review on January 27, 2022.

**Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:**

The individuals taking the Praxis® Middle School Mathematics (5169) Test will incur the costs for the test.