



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

July 8, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Board of Education Approved Passing Scores for Licensure Assessments --
Braille Proficiency Test (0633) and English to Speakers of Other Languages Test (5362)**

Pursuant to Section [22.1-298.1](#) of the *Code of Virginia*, the Board of Education has the statutory authority to prescribe licensure requirements. On June 23, 2016, the Board approved the use of the following Praxis licensure assessments and set passing scores for each of the tests:

Braille Proficiency Test (0633)

English to Speakers of Other Languages Test (5362)

Praxis Braille Proficiency (0633) Test (effective July 1, 2016)

A Braille assessment is required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in Special Education Visual Impairments PreK-12. The Braille Proficiency Test (0631) has been revised and replaced by the Braille Proficiency Test (0633). The test revision process was prompted as a result of changes that have occurred by the Braille Authority of North America (BANA). In 2012, the United States members of the BANA voted to adopt Unified English Braille (UEB) to replace English Braille American Edition and add it as an official code along with the Nemeth code, Music Braille, and the International Phonetic Alphabet. UEB was officially implemented in the United States on January 4, 2016.

As recommended by the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL), the Virginia Board of Education adopted the following passing score and implementation date for the Praxis Braille Proficiency (0633) test required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in Special Education Visual Impairments PreK-12.

Praxis Braille Proficiency Test (0633)		
Test Name	Passing Score	Effective Date
Praxis Braille Proficiency Test (0633)	157	July 1, 2016

Score reports for individuals who took the Praxis Braille Proficiency (0631) test prior to July 1, 2016, will be accepted provided the candidate met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.

Praxis English to Speakers of Other Languages Test (5362) (effective July 1, 2016, except for individuals applying for licensure through Virginia approved programs who will become subject to the requirement September 1, 2017)

The Board prescribes the Praxis (subject area) tests as a professional teacher’s assessment requirement for initial licensure in Virginia. Until this action by the Board of Education, a Praxis subject area assessment was not prescribed for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in English as a Second Language PreK-12.

As recommended by the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure and approved by the Board of Education, individuals will be required to meet the following Praxis English to Speakers of Other Languages Test (5362) requirement for an initial license with an endorsement in English as a Second Language PreK-12, and individuals holding a teaching license will be eligible to add the English as a Second Language PreK-12 endorsement by passing the assessment. The *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* allow any individual who holds a Virginia teaching license to add an endorsement to the license by passing a rigorous academic subject test prescribed by the Board of Education. [This testing option does not apply to individuals who are seeking an Early/Primary Education PreK-3 or Elementary Education PreK-6 endorsement or who hold a Technical Professional License, Vocational Evaluator License, Pupil Personnel Services License, School Manager License, or Division Superintendent License. An English as a Second Language PreK-12 endorsement also cannot be added to a Provisional (Special Education) License.]

Praxis English to Speakers of Other Languages Test (5362)		
Test Name	Passing Score	Effective Date
Praxis English to Speakers of Other Languages Test (5362)	149	July 1, 2016, except for individuals applying for licensure through Virginia approved programs who will become subject to the requirement September 1, 2017

Information on the professional teacher’s assessments in Virginia may be accessed at the following web site: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof_teacher_assessment.pdf.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Kendra A. Crump, director of licensure and school leadership, at (804) 371-2471 or Kendra.Crump@doe.virginia.gov.

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