



#120-21

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #120-21

DATE: May 7, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Approved Passing Score for the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) Test for the Middle Education 6-8 Science Endorsement**

The Virginia Board of Education prescribes the professional teacher's assessment requirements for initial licensure as set forth in Section 22.1-298.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. The Praxis assessment currently required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in **Middle Education 6-8 Science** is the Praxis® Middle School Science (5440) Test. Effective September 1, 2021, the Praxis® Middle School Science (5440) Test will be replaced by the new Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) Test developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), which administers the Praxis assessments.

On March 18, 2021, the Virginia Board of Education adopted the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) Test as the prescribed assessment for the Middle Education 6-8 Science endorsement, and approved the passing score of **147**. Through August 31, 2021, individuals may take either the Praxis® Middle School Science (5440) Test or the new Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) Test. Effective September 1, 2021, only the new Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) Test will be accepted as the prescribed assessment for the Middle Education 6-8 Science endorsement in Virginia. Beginning September 1, 2021, the Praxis® Middle School Science (5440) Test will be accepted only for individuals who took and passed the test during the period it was prescribed by the Board of Education.

Additional information regarding [professional teacher's assessments](#) in Virginia may be found on the Virginia Department of Education's [Office of Licensure and School Leadership webpage](#).

For more information

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Maggie Clemmons, Director of Licensure and School Leadership, via e-mail at Maggie.Clemmons@doe.virginia.gov or telephone at 804-371-2471.

JFL/mmc