

New Jersey Department of Education



Praxis Certification Assessments and edTPA Qualifying Scores August 2021



Please note that this presentation has been modified from its original version to be more accessible.

Background



- For entrance into teaching, candidates must take and pass certain assessments in specified disciplines.
- The State Board, through board resolution, adopts these assessments as well as the minimum score required to qualify for entry into the profession.



Resolution Overview

To implement current regulations, the following operational certification assessment decisions must be adopted by the State Board via resolution:

- New versions of three Praxis content knowledge assessments (Math, Middle School Math, and Middle School Science);
- Revised qualifying scores for the above new Praxis assessments; and
- EdTPA qualifying scores
 - As per the previous resolution, a New Jersey- specific edTPA standard setting study was conducted on April 28, 2021, where NJ stakeholders examined New Jersey's data and recommended a qualifying score for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.



Praxis





Praxis Background

- Regardless of pathway, to obtain certification, teacher candidates are required to demonstrate content knowledge, basic skills and pedagogical skills through various assessments:
 - Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) – Core academic skills in Reading, Writing and Math; and
 - Praxis Subject Assessments- Content knowledge in endorsement area necessary for beginning teachers.
- Current regulations require teacher candidates to take and pass a content knowledge assessment.
- The resolution operationalizes the Praxis Subject Assessments for Math, Middle School Math, and Middle School Science.



New Praxis Tests

Test	Endorsement	Rationale for Revisions
Mathematics	Teacher of Mathematics (P-12)	Redesigned to disaggregate candidate performance in Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, and Statistics. An increase in time allotment per question to minimize challenges faced by candidates.
Middle School Mathematics	Middle School Math (5-8)	
Middle School Science	Middle School Science (5-8)	Redesigned to align with the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).



Praxis Cut Score Rationale

- New Jersey historically adopts the recommended score for new or revised assessments.
- For new assessments, a standard setting study is conducted where content experts from across the country review the items to determine the probability of success for each item considering the level of content knowledge expected of a teacher. The panel comes to a consensus and makes the recommendation for the national cut score.
- Many states adopt the recommended score for new tests and then review performance data over time to determine if new standard setting is warranted.

Qualifying Praxis Cut Score: Teacher of Mathematics



Endorsement	Proposed Test	Proposed Cut Score
Teacher of Mathematics (P-12)	Mathematics (5165)	159



Qualifying Praxis Cut Score: Middle School Mathematics

Endorsement	Proposed Test	Proposed Cut Score
Middle School Math (5-8)	Middle School Mathematics (5164)	157

Qualifying Praxis Cut Score: Middle School Science



Endorsement	Current Test	Proposed Cut Score	States in NE Region Adopting Test
Middle School Science (5-8)	Middle School Science (5440)	152	Connecticut- 152 Delaware- 152 Rhode Island- 152



EdTPA





Performance Assessment Requirement

- Candidates seeking a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) must take and pass a Commissioner-approved performance assessment to be issued a CEAS.¹
- Candidates holding a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) or CE-Reciprocity (CE-R) and teaching provisionally must take and pass a Commissioner-approved performance assessment as a program completion requirement and for standard certification.²
- New Jersey's Commissioner-approved performance assessment is the edTPA.
- The edTPA is a digital portfolio that requires candidates to plan and teach lessons and assess student progress.
- September 2020, the State Board adopted a resolution to maintain current scores for an additional year and conduct NJ standard setting in Spring 2021, as the public health emergency prevented the Spring 2020 standard setting.

¹ *N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.5(a)2, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)6*

² *N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.5(a)2, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7(a)4*





NJ edTPA Standard Setting Overview

- On April 28, 2021, 21 NJ stakeholders (P-12 educators, higher education faculty, alternate route providers, content experts, educational organization representatives) convened virtually for the full-day NJ standard setting process.
- Panelists were briefed on the purpose of the assessment and reviewed NJ-specific portfolios and data.
- After a series of activities, each panelist recommended a passing standard that demonstrated a new teacher's readiness to teach.
- Panelists engaged in discussions utilizing guiding questions to bring forth a final recommendation.



Qualifying EdTPA Cut Scores

The standard setting panel recommended maintaining the current cut scores:

Endorsement(s)	Handbook Type	Cut Score	State Comparison
Classical and World Languages	13-Rubric	32	Connecticut-32
Elementary (K-6)	18-Rubric	44	Connecticut-44
All Others*	15-Rubric	37	Connecticut-37

*This does not include some CTE areas where handbooks are not available.





Rationale for Cut Score

- NJ standard setting panel reviewed NJ data and portfolios to recommend the cut score.
- The minimum cut score represents the minimum level of proficiency a new or novice teacher should demonstrate, though teachers continue to develop and improve their practice over time with district supports.
- If warranted, states may examine data to adjust the cut score.

