

**State Board of Education
Resolution
Comment/Response Form**

This comment and response form contains comments from the August 4, 2021, meeting of the State Board of Education (State Board) when the resolution was discussed.

Topic: Resolution to Adopt New Praxis Tests and Qualifying Scores for Praxis Mathematics, Middle School Mathematics, and Middle School Science and New Qualifying Scores for edTPA

Division: Academics and Performance

Meeting Date: September 8, 2021

Completed by: Office of Recruitment and Preparation

Level: Adoption

Summary of Comments and Agency Responses

The following is a summary of the comments received from State Board members and the public and the Department's responses. Each commenter is identified at the end of the comment by a letter or number that corresponds to the following list:

A. Kathy Goldenberg, President, State Board of Education

B. Dr. Nedd James Johnson, Member, State Board of Education

1. **Comment:** The commenter asked whether the New Jersey edTPA standard-setting panel had a representative from each of the State's 21 counties. **(A)**

Response: The panel was not designed to have representation by county. The Department asked various stakeholder groups (New Jersey School Board Association, Central Jersey Program of the Recruitment of Diverse Educators, JerseyCAN, New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, etc.) to nominate individuals to participate in the standard setting process to represent New Jersey's educational community.

2. **Comment:** The commenter asked whether longitudinal data from the current assessment was considered in determining the recommended Praxis cut scores. **(B)**

Response: Longitudinal data for the new assessments are not yet available because candidates have not begun taking the assessments yet. The previous data was not considered, as the most psychometrically sound process for determining the cut score of a new test is the standard-setting process that engages content experts across the nation to come to a consensus around the most appropriate scores for the new tests.

3. **Comment:** The commenter asked to see longitudinal data for Praxis across all subject areas disaggregated by race. **(B)**

Response: The Department needs additional time to review and provide the requested data.

4. **Comment:** The commenter asked whether longitudinal data for edTPA was considered in determining the proposed cut score across demographic groups. **(B)**

Response: The standard-setting panel had access to longitudinal data when examining edTPA. The panel reviewed pre- and post-pandemic data, as the cut score was only in place for six months before the interruptions caused by COVID-19. The panel also completed an impact analysis to determine the impact that adjustments to cut scores would have on certain demographic groups (race, gender), geographic locations, and classroom settings (urban, suburban, rural) when making their recommendation.

5. **Comment:** The commenter asked whether New Jersey typically utilized the national average score in the past. The commenter wanted to confirm that New Jersey is holding a high standard for individuals entering the teaching profession. **(A)**

Response: The Department is recommending the national recommendation as the New Jersey cut score, and not the national average. The national recommendation is typically accepted by most states that adopt the Praxis assessments. In adopting the national recommendation, New Jersey would have the highest cut score adopted, as most states intend to adopt the national recommendation. No state has expressed intent to adopt a score above the national recommendation.

6. **Comment:** The commenter asked if adopting the national recommendation has always been New Jersey's practice for Praxis cut scores. **(A)**

Response: Yes, the State Board has historically adopted the nationally recommended cut score for Praxis assessments.

7. **Comment:** The commenter asked if Praxis data was available for Praxis Core and Praxis subject matter assessments. **(B)**

Response: The resolution is specifically regarding the Praxis subject matter assessments, but the Department can review and provide Praxis data for both Core and subject matter assessments disaggregated by content area.



State of New Jersey
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adoption Resolution
September 8, 2021

A Resolution Adopting New Praxis Tests and Qualifying Scores for Praxis Mathematics, Middle School Mathematics, and Middle School Science and New Qualifying Scores for edTPA

Whereas, the State Board of Education has required that teacher certification candidates pass assessments in specified disciplines in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.1, effective January 5, 2009, and with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7(a)4i, effective September 1, 2017; and

Whereas, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently established new tests in the subject areas of Praxis Mathematics, Middle School Mathematics, and Middle School Science to replace the current tests used by the Department of Education (Department); and

Whereas, State Board of Education approval is necessary for the adoption of the respective Praxis tests, edTPA and qualifying scores for the corresponding certificates; and

Whereas, New Jersey stakeholders have participated in a national standard-setting study for the Praxis tests; and

Whereas, the Department also convened a panel of New Jersey stakeholders on April 28, 2021, to participate in an edTPA standard setting study to review and analyze New Jersey-specific data and determine valid and theoretically appropriate qualifying scores to recommend to the State Board of Education for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the findings of the edTPA standard setting study process to maintain a qualifying score of a 44 on the combined elementary assessment, a qualifying score of 32 on the world and classical languages assessments, and a qualifying score of 37 on all other assessments, effective September 8, 2021, to satisfy all applicable regulatory requirements; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the selection of the specified Praxis assessments and accepts the establishment of the following qualifying scores, effective September 8, 2021:

Mathematics	159
Middle School Mathematics	157
Middle School Science	152

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

Kathy Goldenberg, President
N.J. State Board of Education