

State Advisory Commission on Teacher Education and Certification Meeting June 20, 2012

The State Advisory Commission on Teacher Education and Certification met on June 20, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to make recommendations regarding qualifying scores or passing scores for seven (7) new PRAXIS tests: Environmental Education (0831); Chinese (Mandarin): World Language (5665); Professional School Counselor (0421); School Superintendent Assessment (6021); Special Education: Early Childhood (0691); Special Education: Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (0272); and Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (0282).

The following persons serve on the Commission:

Member	Affiliation
Lee Ann Wall	NBCT, Instructional Assistant , Acadia Parish Schools Association of Professional Educators of Louisiana
Joel Hilbun	Teacher, Lafayette Parish Schools Louisiana Association of Educators
Dr. Judy Rundell	Chair, Dept of Education, Louisiana State University - Alexandria Louisiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Earl Martinez	Superintendent, Assumption Parish Schools Louisiana Association of School Superintendents
Martin Guillory	Principal, Calcasieu Parish Schools Louisiana Association of Principals
Cathy Lutz	Teacher, Jefferson Parish Schools Louisiana Federation of Teachers
Mary Rideaux	Special Education Teacher, St. Landry Parish J. K. Haynes Foundation
Daryl Roberson	Caddo Parish Schools – Caddo Association of Educators Louisiana Association of Educators
Dr. Jeanne Burns	Associate Commissioner for Teacher and Leadership Initiatives, Louisiana Board of Regents

Members present were Lee Ann Wall, Dr. Judy Rundell, Cathy Lutz, and Mary Rideaux. Department of Education staff present: Barbara Burke, Blanche Adams, Frances Davis, Hall Morrison and Terry Rinaudo. Also present, Louisiana panel participants in the Praxis Multi-State Standard Setting Studies (conducted in Princeton, New Jersey) were: Paula Davis, Special School District; Dr. Colleen Klein-Ezell, Southeastern Louisiana University; Dr. Ruby Ryles, Louisiana Tech University and Rick Cullors, Client Relations Director with Educational Testing Service (ETS).

STANDARD SETTING STUDIES

ETS recently regenerated all of the above mentioned exams which will be administered for the first time this year in all user states. Rick Cullors informed the Commission that Praxis exams are reviewed on a five-year cycle with updated content matched to national standards. Louisiana is required to set passing scores for each exam.

In the fall 2011 and spring 2012, ETS facilitated multi-state standard setting studies consisting of two panels for *each* new exam in Princeton, New Jersey. Approximately 50 teachers/teacher educators were

selected from participating states and assigned to one of the two panels so that, overall, the two panels were comparable in terms of representation and expertise. Panel participants took the exam that will be administered to applicants. They provided independent judgments relative to content relevance, and engaged in panel-wide discussions as each panel considered the minimum score needed to be considered qualified to enter the teaching profession in that specific teaching area (e.g., Chinese, hearing impaired, visually impaired, etc.). Louisiana educators were well represented on each panel. Educators participating in the study were nominated by their superintendent/human resource director or college of education dean.

ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the April 21, 2011 meeting in which the passing scores for several new pedagogy exams were recommended. BESE approved and adopted the pedagogy exams passing scores in the fall 2011.

In determining the passing scores for Environmental Education, Chinese, School Counselor, School Superintendent, Special Education: Early Childhood, Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Visual Impairments, the Advisory Commission considered: (1) expectations of what entering teachers/administrators/counselors need to know and be able to do; (2) supply/demand issues (based on the need of teachers in a specific teaching area); and (3) access to the profession.

In addition, the Advisory Commission reviewed the Praxis Test-at-a-Glance (TAAG) documents which provided the test descriptions and specifications such as time allotted, number of questions, test format, topic categories, etc. and examined the multistate study value results and recommendations from the panel members.

All Praxis exams have a scale score range of 100-200.

Environmental Education (0831)

This exam will be required for teachers pursuing environmental science certification. Currently Louisiana doesn't require a content exam for environmental science teachers.

The Advisory Commission recommended a qualifying score of 156.

Rationale:

- This is a new test that has never been administered. Therefore, national or state specific data was not available for review.
- The study value ranged from 144-171. Teachers participating in the panel study recommended a cut score of 156.
- The Advisory Commission recommends the state should review the test performance after one to two years utilizing state specific data to consider raising or lowering the recommended qualifying score.

Chinese (Mandarin): World Language (5665)

The Advisory Commission recommended a qualifying score of 159.

Rationale:

- This is a new test developed for teachers pursuing Chinese certification and it has never been administered. Therefore, national or state specific data was not available for review.
- There are only five Louisiana certified teachers in Chinese.
- The study value ranged from 147- 172. Teachers participating in the panel study recommended a cut score of 164. However some panelist believed the passing score was too high.
- The Advisory Commission recommends the state should review the test performance after one to two years utilizing state specific data to consider raising the recommended qualifying score.

Professional School Counselor (0421)

The Advisory Commission recommended a qualifying score of 156.

Rationale:

- The Blue Ribbon Commission for Educator Excellence recommended that a Praxis exam be required for teachers pursuing an add-on endorsement as School Guidance Counselor or Ancillary Guidance Counselor certification. Currently Louisiana doesn't require an exam for School Guidance Counselor certification.
- This is a new test and it has never been administered. Therefore, national or state specific data was not available for review.
- The study value ranged from 144-171. Counselors participating in the panel study recommended a cut score of 156.
- The Advisory Commissions recommends the state should review the test performance after one to two years utilizing state specific data to consider raising or lowering the recommended qualifying

School Superintendent Assessment (6021)

The Advisory Commission recommended a qualifying score of 160.

Rationale:

- This test will replace the current School Superintendent Assessment (1020) exam. This test has been regenerated and the new computerized test (6021) has never been administered. Therefore, national or state specific data was not available for review.
- The study value ranged from 150-170. Administrators participating in the panel study recommended a cut score of 160.
- The Advisory Commissions recommends the state should review the test performance after one to two years utilizing state specific data to consider raising or lowering the recommended qualifying

Special Education: Early Childhood (0691)

The Advisory Commission recommended a qualifying score of 159.

This exam will be required of individuals pursuing early interventionist birth to kindergarten certification. Discussions are still on-going to determine if this exam should replace Elementary Education: Content Knowledge for special education birth to kindergarten teacher candidates or should it be added to the list of exams required.

Rationale:

- There is a high need of special education early childhood teachers. Nicholls State University is the only university that offers an undergraduate teacher education program. Louisiana Tech University, Southeastern Louisiana University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette and University of New Orleans offer alternate programs in early interventionist.
- This is a new test that has never been administered. Therefore, national or state specific data was not available for review.
- The study value ranged from 147-172. The panel participating in the study recommended 159.
- The Advisory Commission recommends the state should review the test performance after one to two years utilizing state specific data to consider raising or lowering the recommended qualifying scores.

Special Education: Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (0272)

The Advisory Commission recommended a qualifying score of 160.

Rationale:

- This test will replace the current Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students (0271). This test has been regenerated and the new test (0272) has never been administered. Therefore, national or state specific data was not available for review.
- University of New Orleans is the only university that offers a hearing impaired program (alternate route).
- The study value ranged from 147-174. The panel participating in the study recommended 160.
- The Advisory Commission recommends the state should review the test performance after one to two years utilizing state specific data to consider raising or lowering the recommended qualifying scores.

Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (0282)

The Advisory Commission recommended a qualifying score of 157.

Rationale:

- This is a new test developed for teachers pursuing visually impaired certification and it has never been administered. Therefore, national or state specific data was not available for review.
- There is a high unemployed rate among visually impaired.
- Louisiana Tech University is the only university that offers a visually impaired program (alternate route). International students are enrolled in Louisiana Tech's program. There are 36 visually impaired programs in the whole nation.

- The study value ranged from 150-177. The panel participating in the study recommended 163.
- The Advisory Commission recommends the state should review the test performance after one to two years utilizing state specific data to consider raising or lowering the recommended qualifying scores.