



To: SBE
From: Michael Rowland
Cc'ed: Karli Saracini, Joan Luneau, Melissa Jacks
Date: February 2021
Re: Assessment for Reading Specialist (K-12)
Endorsement

Reading Specialist (K-12) Assessment

Current Reading Specialist (K-12) Endorsement Assessment:	Proposed Reading Specialist (K-12) Endorsement Assessment:
Praxis® Reading Specialist (5301)	Praxis® Reading Specialist (5302) Recommended Cut Score: 160 (-1 SEM)
Effective Date September 1, 2012, to present	Effective September 1, 2021

Rationale

Reading Specialist (K-12) is an endorsement area added to a standard license by completing graduate-level program of study and passing the state's current licensure assessment, Praxis® Reading Specialist (5301). Education Testing Company (ETS) has updated the 5301 with the Praxis® Reading Specialist (5302).

According to the Praxis® Reading Specialist (5302) Study Companion, the content of the test is based largely on the 2017 Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals created by the International Literacy Association. The test is intended primarily for educators who have advanced academic preparation and/or who are being considered for supervisory or instructional positions related to the teaching of reading instruction in grades K–12. The test is most appropriate for candidates with advanced preparation (i.e., those with a master's degree or course work comparable to the training needed for a master's degree) who expect to have specialized responsibilities related to the teaching of reading at any level from kindergarten through twelfth grade. It also is suitable for individuals who wish to be considered for supervisory or instructional positions related to the teaching of reading—those seeking positions as reading clinicians, consultants, supervisors, specialists, coaches, coordinators, or resource persons and thus intending to be responsible for more than the teaching of developmental reading in a regular classroom setting.

The two and a half hour assessment contains 95 selected-response items and two constructed-response items covering four content areas: Curriculum and instruction (approximately 47 items), Assessment (approximately 29 items), Professional Leadership and Specialized Roles (approximately 19 items), and Application (approximately 2 items). The reporting scale is from 100 to 200 scale-score points.

In February 2020, ETS conducted a multistate standard setting study in Princeton, NJ. Two Arkansas reading educators participated in the study. As a result, a study value of 165 was determined, with a -1 standard error of measurement (SEM) score of 160. In November 2020, an ETS representative facilitated a virtual state review of the Reading Specialist (5302). Feedback from Arkansas reading specialists indicate the Praxis® Reading Specialist (5302) is an appropriate licensure test for the Reading Specialist (K-12) endorsement, and 160 is an acceptable score.

To add the Reading Specialist (K-12) endorsement to a Standard Arkansas Educator License, the Department recommends adopting the Praxis® Reading Specialist (5302) with a cut score of 160, effective September 1, 2021.