



To: State Board of Education  
From: Michael Rowland  
Cc'ed: Karli Saracini, Joan Luneau, Melissa Jacks  
Date: July 2021  
Re: Assessment for Instrumental Music (K-12) Licensure

## Instrumental Music (K-12) Assessment

Current Music Instrumental (K-12) Licensure Assessment:	Proposed Music Instrumental (K-12) Licensure Assessment:
None – new instrumental music test	Praxis® Music: Instrumental and General Knowledge (5115) Recommended Cut Score: 145 (-1 SEM)
	Effective September 1, 2021

## Rationale

Instrumental Music (K-12) is a first-time licensure area as well as an add-on licensure area. The current Music (K-12) licensure test is the Praxis® Music: Content Knowledge (5113) and is for both Instrumental and Vocal Music licenses. The new Praxis® Music: Instrumental and General Knowledge (5115) would be for instrumental music teachers only.

The Praxis® Music: Instrumental and General Knowledge (5115) Study Companion describes the purpose and structure of the 5115. Examinees taking this test will typically have completed, or will have nearly completed, an undergraduate music education program including student teaching. The test content assesses key indicators of the beginning educator's musical knowledge and professional readiness for K–12 music instruction required for individuals teaching courses to students in instrumental music or general music settings.

The content of the test is designed and developed through work with practicing instrumental and general music teachers and teacher educators to reflect the music knowledge teachers need to teach instrumental and general music, and on teacher preparation standards and relevant materials created by the National Association for the Schools of Music (NASM), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), the College Music Society (CMS), the Society for Music Teacher Education (SMTE), and the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium.

The 125 minute assessment contains 125 selected-response questions covering five content areas: Music History and Literature (approximately 16 questions, 13%), Music Theory and Composition (approximately 18 questions, 14%), Music Performance (approximately 25 questions, 20%), Music Pedagogy and Instructional Practices (approximately 49 questions, 40%), and Professional Issues and Music Technology (approximately 17 questions, 13%).

In February 2021, Educational Testing Service conducted a virtual multistate standard setting study. Two Arkansas music educators participated in the study. As a result, a study value of 150 was determined, and 145 is the score with -1 standard error of measurement (SEM). In May 2021, ETS conducted a virtual test review for Arkansas music preparation programs.

For the Instrumental Music (K-12) licensure assessment, the Department recommends adopting the Praxis® Music: Instrumental and General Knowledge (5115) with a cut score of 145, effective September 1, 2021.