



## Indiana Department of Education

---

To: State Board of Education

From: Karrienne Polk-Meek, Director, DOE Literacy Center

Risa A. Regnier, Director Educator Licensing

Date: January 2024

Re: Adoption of Praxis test #5205 *Teaching Reading: Elementary*

### **Background**

During the 2023 legislative session the Indiana General Assembly enacted extensive legislation in HEA 1558 regarding implementation of curriculum and instructional practices grounded in the science of reading for students in grades pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. The legislation included authorization to create a new early literacy content area endorsement for early childhood, elementary generalist, and special education teachers licensed for grades P-5 that can be achieved through Indiana pre-service preparation programs or by completion of an approved program of 80 hours of science of reading professional development and passage of a content licensure test. In response to the directives of HEA1558-2023, the DOE Offices of Educator Licensing, Higher Education and Educator Preparation Programs, and the Literacy Center undertook consideration of an appropriate licensure test for the early literacy endorsement.

Educational Testing Service (ETS) is Indiana's sole licensure test program provider as the result of an RFP award and action by the Indiana General Assembly in July 2019. After multiple meetings with ETS and its reading specialists regarding the alignment of its Praxis elementary reading test option #5205 and its alignment to science of reading research and [Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading from the International Dyslexia Association](#) (KPS – IDA), DOE requested that ETS empanel a group of Indiana reading practitioners and teacher educators of reading instruction to review the technical report and multi-state standard (cut score) setting process for test #5205 *Teaching Reading: Elementary* to consider a recommendation for the State Board of Education.

Following the meeting of the Indiana educator panel in July 2023, the technical report for test #5205, the multi-state standard-setting study, and the report of the Indiana panel were posted on the DOE website for public review and comment from August 13 to September 15. The Indiana panel recommended the adoption of the test and the multi-state cut score of 159 on a 100-200 scale, which represents 67 correct responses out of 107 possible raw points. Praxis test #5205 is currently in use in 11 states and territories, all of which adopted the multi-state cut score of 159.

During the public comment period DOE was informed by ETS about a deep-fake website purporting to be the ETS website on which a test was posted purporting to be an official practice test for #5205; the test posted on that website was not an authentic or current ETS reading content or practice test. The false information on the website was creating concern about test #5205, and ETS shared that the deep-fake website had resulted in misinformation being spread in other ETS client states that use test #5205.



## Indiana Department of Education

---

DOE received 16 public comments; their points are summarized below:

- Two responses expressed lack of support for licensure testing, generally,
- Three comments agreed with the proposed cut score,
- Seven comments were in favor of a lower cut score,
- One response suggested a higher cut score,
- Two comments recommended the Pearson Foundations of Reading test,
- Five respondents expressed concern about the degree of alignment of test #5205 to science of reading research, with four submitting an identical comment.
- One comment suggested a variety of item types, including constructed response, be included on the test.
- One commenter found the test fair and reasonable and appropriate for its purpose.

Following the close of the public comment period, DOE requested and was granted secure access to the interactive practice test for 5205 *Teaching Reading: Elementary*. A specialist from the Literacy Center reviewed the test items and shared their observations with ETS and its reading specialist in a subsequent meeting. Concerns received during public comment were also shared. Based on follow up meetings and multiple deliberative communications between DOE and ETS, DOE has concluded that test #5205 *Teaching Reading: Elementary* is aligned to science of reading research and [Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading from the International Dyslexia Association \(KPS – IDA\)](#), and it is appropriate to the purpose for which it is offered: to assess the basic knowledge proficiency level necessary for the “**just qualified**” educator to begin classroom practice with the early literacy endorsement.

Additionally, Praxis test #5205 is included in [NCTQ’s published list of licensure tests](#) it identified as aligned to science of reading research and [Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading from the International Dyslexia Association \(KPS – IDA\)](#). Beginning July 1, 2024, early childhood, elementary generalist, and special education (P-12) programs must incorporate these standards as part of the pedagogical and/or content preparation required of their teacher candidates.

### **Action Needed**

Under 511 IAC 15-7-2 the board must vote final approval of licensure tests and cut scores after a 30-day period for public comment.

### **DOE Recommendation**

Adoption of Praxis test #5205 *Teaching Reading: Elementary* and the recommended cut score of 159, effective March 1, 2024.