



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. John Keller, Chief Technology Officer
Risa A. Regnier, Director of Educator Licensing

DATE: May 5, 2021

RE: Adoption of Updated Praxis Tests and Recommended Cut Scores

Background

In October 2018, the IDOE released an RFP for a new licensure test vendor and program as required by the 2018 General Assembly. In July 2019, in accordance with the results of the RFP and action by the 2019 General Assembly, Educational Testing Service (ETS)--with its nationally available Praxis test program--was adopted by the SBOE to provide educator licensure tests as of September 1, 2021.

Since its adoption in July 2019, ETS and IDOE began working to establish test cut scores for the existing Praxis tests Indiana will use, and the development of several new Praxis tests that will be used in Indiana and made available to other ETS client states. As of December 2020, 42 existing Praxis tests and cut scores had been approved by the board. That level of test and cut score adoption has allowed the DOE to work with the two test vendors to facilitate an earlier transition to many of the Praxis tests than previously planned. The 42 tests and scores already adopted will be available for test administration after July 1, 2021; most of the remaining content tests will be implemented September 1, 2021.

As noted above, in response to Indiana's RFP for licensure tests ETS agreed to develop new Praxis tests in those few required areas for which there is not an existing test, including Journalism and Physical Science. Following the development of these tests a multi-state standard setting (cut score) study was conducted that included Indiana teachers licensed in these content areas as participants. The tests and recommended cut scores were posted for public comment for 30 days.

- There was one public comment in support of the Journalism test 5224 and its recommended cut score of 153.
- There were no public comments on the Physical Science test 5485 and its recommended cut score of 157.

Action Needed

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

DOE Recommendation

Final approval of the Journalism and Physical Science tests and the panel-recommended cut scores (RSV) for each: Journalism 5224 (153) and Physical Science 5485 (157) identified in the attached documents.