



To: SBE  
From: Michael Rowland  
Cc'ed: Joan Luneau, Melissa Jacks  
Date: 7/13/17  
Re: TEACHING READING ASSESSMENT FOR ELEMENTARY  
EDUCATION (K-6) AND SPECIAL EDUCATION (K-12)  
LICENSURE

## Teaching Reading Assessment

Current Teaching Reading Test:	Proposed Teaching Reading Test:
None (new licensure assessment)	Foundations of Reading Recommended Cut Score: 229
	Effective September 1, 2017

## Rationale

Act 416 of 2017 requires a person who applies for an Elementary Education (K-6) or a Special Education (K-12) license to successfully pass a stand-alone teaching reading test. The legislation requires a test that:

- Provides an extensive practice test;
- Includes an adequate number of assessment items (questions) to ensure instructional knowledge of reading that is based on evidence-based practices related to the science of reading;
- Ensures that at least fifty percent (50%) of the items assess instructional knowledge for beginning reading and are based on evidence-based practices related to the science of reading;
- Includes at least one (1) open-response question so test takers can indicate how well they can demonstrate in writing their diagnostic interpretation of student reading errors; and
- Includes a clear distinction between reading elements in and skills needed for literary and informational texts in order to address the English language arts standards as determined by the state board.

The legislation mandates that the State Board will adopt a cut score for the stand-alone reading assessment with strong consideration based on the national mean if the national mean is not less than seventy percent (70%) of correct answers.

The Department assembled a panel of reading content stakeholders comprised of classroom teachers, higher education faculty, and literacy specialists. Representatives from Educational Testing Service (ETS) facilitated the two Praxis Teaching Reading test reviews, and representatives from Pearson Education, Inc. facilitated the Foundations of Reading review. The panel reviewed three teaching reading tests:

Praxis Teaching Reading: Elementary Education (5203) for K-6 (ETS), on Monday, April 10, 2017  
Praxis Teaching Reading (5204) for K-12 (ETS), on Monday, April 10, 2017  
Foundations of Reading for K-12 (Pearson Education, Inc.), on Thursday, April 27, 2017

From discussion and feedback during the test reviews as well as a follow-up survey, the recommended teaching reading licensure test is the Foundations of Reading. To comply with Act 416, data provided by Pearson Education, Inc. support a cut score of 229.

To satisfy licensure test requirements of Act 416, the Department recommends using the Foundations of Reading with a cut score of 229 effective September 1, 2017.