



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item: J

Date: June 21, 2024

Title: First Review of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's Recommendation to replace the Praxis® Social Studies: Content Knowledge (5081) with Social Studies (5581) with a passing score of 153 for History and social sciences endorsement.

Presenter: Rob Gilstrap, Assistant Superintendent for Education Preparation

Purpose of Presentation

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

Executive Summary

The proposed recommendation from the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (“ABTEL”) is to set a passing score for the **Praxis® Social Studies (5081) Test for the History and Social Sciences** endorsement. **The Praxis® Social Studies (5581)** test will replace the Praxis® Social Studies: Content Knowledge (5081) test. The **new** assessment was designed to determine whether a candidate has the knowledge and skills necessary for a beginning teacher of social studies in a secondary school. The test is aligned with the National Standards for Social Studies Teachers and the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, developed by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). The development of the test was also informed by various other disciplinary standards, including the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework for Social Studies States Standards, the National Standards for History, the National Geography Standards, and the Voluntary National Content Standards for Economics.

The test requires the examinee to understand and apply social studies knowledge, concepts, methodologies, and skills across the fields of United States history, world history, government and civics, geography, and economics. This test will be required for individuals seeking initial licensure unless exempted by holding a full, clear out-of-state license with no deficiencies and can be taken and passed to add an endorsement in History and Social Sciences by individuals holding a valid renewable teaching license.

Educational Testing Service (“ETS”) provides a recommended passing score from the multistate standard-setting study to help education agencies determine an appropriate operational passing score.

For the Praxis Social Studies test, the recommended passing score is 74 out of a possible 120 raw-score points. The scale score associated with a raw score of 74 is 153 on a 100–200 scale.

The current Praxis® Social Studies: Content Knowledge (5081) Test has a Board prescribed passing score of 161 on a 100–200 scale. **The Praxis® Social Studies (5581) test is a new assessment**, and the previous passing score was not a consideration of ETS or ABTEL when establishing this test’s passing score. Because this is a **new** assessment, ABTEL is also recommending that a data review be conducted after one year to determine if the passing score is providing for the greatest opportunity of teachers entering the profession while maintaining rigor.

On April 1, 2024, information regarding the multistate standard-setting process was presented to ABTEL members by Malik K. McKinley, Sr., Director of Client Relations, Professional Educator Programs, Office for Teacher Licensure and Certification, Student and Teacher Assessment Division, Educational Testing Service. ABTEL members reviewed the standard-setting report and recommended that the Board approve the passing score of 153 (the standard setting panel’s recommendation).

Attached are the Multistate Standard-Setting Technical Report - Praxis® Social Studies (5581) Test and the Praxis® Study Companion.

This item supports Priority 3 of the Board’s [Comprehensive Plan 2024–2029](#): to ensure that every K-12 student has a high-quality, licensed teacher.

Action Requested

Action will be requested at a future meeting: July 25, 2024

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to establish a cut score of 153 for the Praxis® Social Studies (5581) test. Individuals may take either the currently prescribed assessment for Social Studies: Content Knowledge, Praxis®(5081) or the new Praxis® Social Studies (5581) test through December 2024; in January 2025, only the new Praxis® Social Studies (5581) test will be offered in Virginia. Beginning January 2025, the Praxis® Social Studies (5581) test will be accepted only for those individuals who took and passed the test during the period it was prescribed by the Board of Education.

Previous Review or Action

No previous review or action.

Background Information and Statutory Authority

Currently, the Board requires the following assessments for initial licensure:

- Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA);

- Praxis Subject Assessments; and
- Praxis® Teaching Reading: Elementary (5205) for specified endorsements.

The Board prescribes the Praxis Subject Assessments as a professional teacher’s assessment requirement for initial licensure in Virginia. The current Board of Education’s prescribed assessment for History and social sciences is the Praxis® Social Studies (5581).

The Praxis® Social Studies (5581) test will replace the Praxis® Social Studies: Content Knowledge (5081) test. This **new** assessment is designed to determine whether a candidate has the knowledge and skills necessary for a beginning teacher of social studies in a secondary school. The test is aligned with the National Standards for Social Studies Teachers and the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, developed by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). The development of the test was also informed by various other disciplinary standards, including the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework for Social Studies States Standards, the National Standards for History, the National Geography Standards, and the Voluntary National Content Standards for Economics. The test requires the examinee to understand and apply social studies knowledge, concepts, methodologies, and skills across the fields of United States history, world history, government and civics, geography, and economics.

In February 2024, a multistate standard-setting study was designed and conducted by the Educational Testing Service to support the decision-making process of education agencies establishing a passing score (cut score) for Praxis® Social Studies (5581) test.

Panelists from 11 states and Washington, D.C., participated on the panel. The education agencies recommended panelists with (a) experience as social studies teachers or college faculty who prepare those social studies teachers and (b) familiarity with the knowledge and skills required of beginning social studies teachers.

A detailed summary of the study, Multistate Standard-Setting Technical Report - Praxis® Social Studies (5581) is attached. The technical report contains three sections. The first section describes the content and format of the test. The second section describes the standard-setting processes and methods. The third section presents the results of the standard-setting study.

The Praxis® Social Studies Study Companion is also attached. This document describes the purpose and structure of the test. In brief, the test measures whether entry-level social studies teachers have the knowledge/skills believed necessary for competent professional practice.

The two-hour and 30-minute assessment contains 140 selected-response items covering five content areas: United States History (approximately 40 items), World History (approximately 31 items), Geography (approximately 19 items), Civics (approximately 32 items), and Economics (approximately 18 items). The reporting scale for the Praxis Social Studies test ranges from 100 to 200 scale-score points.

Multistate Standard-Setting Study

The Multistate standard-setting study for the Praxis® Social Studies (5581) test is detailed in the attached report.

The following table presents the estimated conditional standard error of measurement (CSEM) around the recommended passing score. A standard error represents the uncertainty associated with a test score. The scale scores associated with one and two CSEM above and below the recommended passing score are provided. The conditional standard error of measurement provided is an estimate.

Conditional Standard Error of Measurement Summaries
PRAXIS® Social Studies (5581)

	Raw Score	Scale Score Equivalent
<i>Recommended passing Score (CSEM)</i>	74 (5.35)	153
-2 CSEM	64	141
-1 CSEM	69	147
+1 CSEM	80	160
+2 CSEM	85	166

ETS provides a recommended passing score from the multistate standard-setting study to help education agencies determine an appropriate operational passing score. For the Social Studies test, the recommended passing score is 74 out of a possible 120 raw-score points. The scale score associated with a raw score of 74 is **153** on a 100–200 scale. The current Praxis® Social Studies: Content Knowledge (5081) Test has a Board prescribed passing score of 161 on a 100-200 scale. The Praxis® Social Studies (5581) test is a **new** assessment, and the previous passing score was not a consideration of ETS or ABTEL when establishing this test’s passing score. Because this is a **new** assessment, ABTEL is also recommending that a data review be conducted after one year to determine if the passing score is providing for the greatest opportunity of teachers entering the profession while maintaining rigor.

On April 1, 2024, information regarding the multistate standard-setting process was presented to ABTEL members by Malik K. McKinley, Sr., Director of Client Relations, Professional Educator Programs, Office for Teacher Licensure and Certification, Student and Teacher Assessment Division, Educational Testing Service. ABTEL members reviewed the standard-setting report and recommended that the Board approve the passing score of 153 (the standard setting panel’s recommendation).

The *Code of Virginia* provides the authority for the Board of Education to promulgate Licensure Regulations for School Personnel.

Section [22.1-298.1](#) of the *Code of Virginia* states, in part, the following:

- C. The Board of Education's regulations shall include requirements that a person seeking initial licensure:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the relevant content area, communication, literacy, and other core skills for educators by achieving a qualifying score on professional assessments or meeting alternative evaluation standards as prescribed by the Board;
2. Complete study in attention deficit disorder;
3. Complete study in gifted education, including the use of multiple criteria to identify gifted students; and
4. Complete study in methods of improving communication between schools and families and ways of increasing family involvement in student learning at home and at school.

Code of Virginia, Section [22.1-16. Bylaws and regulations generally.](#)

Code of Virginia, Section [22.1-299. License required of teachers.](#)

Code of Virginia, Section [22.1-305.2. Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure.](#)

The [Licensure Regulations for School Personnel](#) state, in part, the following:

[8VAC20-22-40.](#) Conditions for Licensure.

... B. All candidates who hold at least a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and who seek an initial Virginia teaching license shall obtain passing scores on professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education. With the exception of the career switcher program that requires assessments as prerequisites, individuals shall complete the professional teacher's assessment requirements within the three-year validity of the initial provisional license....

[8VAC20-22-70.](#) Additional Endorsements.

A. An individual who holds a teaching license may add an additional teaching endorsement to the license by passing a rigorous academic subject test for endorsements in which a test is prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education. This testing option does not apply to individuals (i) who are seeking an early/primary 5 education preK-3 or elementary education preK-6 endorsement, special education endorsements, or a reading specialist endorsement or (ii) who hold a Technical Professional License, Vocational Evaluator License, Pupil Personnel Services License, School Manager License, or Division Superintendent License.

Stakeholder Engagement

During the April 1, 2024, meeting, ABTEL members reviewed the standard-setting report and recommended that the Board approve the establish passing score of 153 for the Praxis® Social Studies (5581) Test.

Implementation and Communication

Upon adoption by the Board, a written communication will notify school divisions and educator preparation programs of the approval of the new passing score of 153 for the Praxis® Social Studies (5581). The new passing score will be updated on the Professional Educator's Assessment Resource document on the VDOE's website.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources

The individuals taking the Praxis® Social Studies (5581) Test will incur the costs for the test.