



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

August 9, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Board of Education Approved Passing Scores for the Following Licensure Assessments: 1) Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA); 2) Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031); 3) Praxis Middle School English Language Arts (5047); 4) Praxis Middle School Mathematics (5169); 5) Praxis English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038); 6) Praxis Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161)**

The Virginia Board of Education prescribes the professional teacher's assessment requirements for initial licensure in Virginia as set forth in Section 22.1-298.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. On June 27, 2013, the Board adopted passing scores for the following licensure assessments:

1) Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA); 2) Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031); 3) Praxis Middle School English Language Arts (5047); 4) Praxis Middle School Mathematics (5169); 5) Praxis English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038); and 6) Praxis Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161). Information on the assessments, the adopted passing scores, and effective dates are provided below for each of these licensure assessments.

**Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA)**

The Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) has been required for initial licensure since 2006. The VCLA is composed of two area subtests – a Reading Subtest (091) and a Writing Subtest (092). The National Evaluation Group of Pearson administers the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education approved increased raw scores that are needed to obtain passing scores. The score scale has been adjusted to apply these new passing scores. As a result, the scaled passing scores of 235 for both the reading and writing subtests will remain in effect. The scaled composite passing score for the VCLA assessment (reading and writing combined) is 470.

Assessment Name	Board Approved Passing Score		Effective Date
	Raw Score	Scaled Score	
VCLA Reading Subtest (091)	26 out of 35	235	January 1, 2014

VCLA Writing Subtest (092)	29 out of 41 (multiple choice and sentence correction)	235	January 1, 2014
	29 out of 40 (writing assignments)		
VCLA Composite		470	January 1, 2014

Individuals may register to complete both subtests of the VCLA in one four-hour test session or may register for completion of one subtest at a time and have separate four-hour test sessions to complete each of the subtests. Individuals wanting to take each subtest in a separate four-hour test session must submit a separate registration for each subtest.

Score reports for individuals who took the VCLA prior to January 1, 2014, will be accepted provided the candidates met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.

### **Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031)**

The Praxis II assessment currently required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in Early/Primary Education preK-3 or Elementary Education preK-6 is the Praxis Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (0014/5014) assessment. Effective June 30, 2014, this licensure assessment will be discontinued in Virginia. Effective July 1, 2014, the Virginia Board of Education's prescribed assessment will be the Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031) assessment developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), that administers the Praxis II assessments. **This new assessment, unlike the Praxis Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (0014/5014) assessment, requires a passing score for each of the four subtests. There is not a composite passing score for the Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031) assessment.** Individuals must register for 5031 and take all four subtests in one sitting. If a passing score is not obtained on each subtest, a subtest may be retaken as a stand-alone test. On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education approved the passing scores (raw scores). The passing scaled scores associated with the passing raw scores are provided in the table below.

Assessment Name	Board Approved Passing Score		Effective Date
	Raw Score	Scaled Score	
Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031): Reading and Language Arts (5032)	46 out of 65	165	July 1, 2014
Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031): Mathematics (5033)	28 out of 40	164	July 1, 2014
Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031): Social Studies (5034)	35 out of 55	155	July 1, 2014

Praxis Elementary Education Multiple Subjects (5031): Science (5035)	33 out of 50	159	July 1, 2014
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Score reports for individuals who took the Praxis Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (0014/5014) prior to July 1, 2014, will be accepted provided the candidates met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.

### Praxis Middle School English Language Arts (5047)

The Praxis II assessment currently required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in Middle Education 6-8: English is the Middle School English Language Arts (0049/5049) assessment. Effective December 31, 2013, this licensure assessment will be discontinued in Virginia. Effective January 1, 2014, the Virginia Board of Education's prescribed assessment will be the new Middle School English Language Arts (5047) assessment developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), that administers the Praxis II assessments. On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education approved the passing score (raw score). The passing scaled score associated with the passing raw score is provided in the table below.

Assessment Name	Board Approved Passing Score		Effective Date
	Raw Score	Scaled Score	
Praxis Middle School English Language Arts (5047)	81 out of 120	164	January 1, 2014

Score reports for individuals who took the Middle School English Language Arts (0049/5049) assessment prior to January 1, 2014, will be accepted provided the candidates met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.

### Praxis Middle School Mathematics (5169)

The Praxis II assessment currently required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in Middle Education 6-8: Mathematics is the Middle School Mathematics (0069) assessment. Effective December 31, 2013, this licensure assessment will be discontinued in Virginia. Effective January 1, 2014, the Virginia Board of Education's prescribed assessment will be the new Middle School Mathematics (5169) assessment developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), that administers the Praxis II assessments. On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education approved the passing score (raw score). The passing scaled score associated with the passing raw score is provided in the table below.

Assessment Name	Board Approved Passing Score		Effective Date
	Raw Score	Scaled Score	
Praxis Middle School Mathematics	31 out of 45	165	January 1, 2014

(5169)

Score reports for individuals who took the Middle School Mathematics (0069) assessment prior to January 1, 2014, will be accepted provided the candidates met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.

**Praxis English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038)**

The Praxis II assessment currently required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in English is the English Language, Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge (0041/5041) assessment. Effective December 31, 2013, this licensure assessment will be discontinued in Virginia. Effective January 1, 2014, the Virginia Board of Education's prescribed assessment will be the new English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038) assessment developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), that administers the Praxis II assessments. On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education approved the passing score (raw score). The passing scaled score associated with the passing raw score is provided in the table below.

Assessment Name	Board Approved Passing Score		Effective Date
	Raw Score	Scaled Score	
Praxis English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038)	79 out of 110	167	January 1, 2014

Score reports for individuals who took the English Language, Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge (0041/5041) assessment prior to January 1, 2014, will be accepted provided the candidates met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.

**Praxis Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161)**

The Praxis II assessment currently required for individuals seeking an initial license with an endorsement in mathematics is the Mathematics: Content Knowledge (0061/5061) assessment. Effective December 31, 2013, this licensure assessment will be discontinued in Virginia. Effective January 1, 2014, the Virginia Board of Education's prescribed assessment will be the new Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161) assessment developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), that administers the Praxis II assessments. On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education approved the passing score (raw score). The passing scaled score associated with the passing raw score is provided in the table below.

Assessment Name	Board Approved Passing Score		Effective Date
	Raw Score	Scaled Score	
Praxis Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161)	32 out of 50	160	January 1, 2014

Score reports for individuals who took the Mathematics: Content Knowledge (0061/5061) assessment prior to January 1, 2014, will be accepted provided the candidate met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.

Information on professional teacher's assessments in Virginia may be accessed at:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof\\_teacher\\_assessment.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof_teacher_assessment.pdf).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Mark R. Allan, director of teacher licensure, via e-mail at [Mark.Allan@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Mark.Allan@doe.virginia.gov) or telephone at (804) 371-2471.

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