



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

August 23, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Board of Education Approved the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732) as the Prescribed Assessments of Basic Skills for Entry Requirement into an Approved Education Program (Effective January 1, 2014)**

The Virginia statute requires that the Board of Education prescribe an assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education program. Section [23-9.2:3.6 \(Education preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education\)](#) of the *Code of Virginia* states, in part, the following:

- A. Education preparation programs shall be required to meet the requirements for accreditation and program approval as prescribed by the Board of Education in its regulations.
- B. As provided in § [22.1-298.2](#), the Board of Education shall prescribe an assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education program and shall establish a minimum passing score for such assessment. The Board also may prescribe other requirements for admission to Virginia's approved education programs in its regulations.
- C. Candidates who fail to achieve the minimum score established by the Board of Education may be denied entrance into the relevant education program on the basis of such failure; however, if enrolled in the program, they shall have the opportunity to address any deficiencies.

On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education prescribed the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732) as the assessments of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education program and adopted the passing scores for the assessments to become effective January 1, 2014. These tests, administered by the Educational Testing Service, will replace the Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST) in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Individuals who take the Praxis I assessments prior to December 31, 2013, will be deemed to have taken the prescribed assessment referenced in Section [22.1-298.2](#) of the *Code of Virginia*.

Information on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests, adopted passing scores, effective date, and recommendations approved by the Board related to implementation of the assessments are provided as follows:

**Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732)**

The Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732) require a passing score for each of the three subtests. There is not a composite passing

score for the assessments. If a passing score is not obtained on each subtest, a subtest may be retaken as a stand-alone test.

The passing scaled scores associated with the passing raw scores approved by the Board of Education are provided in the following table:

Test	Board Approved Passing Score		Effective Date
	Raw Score	Scaled Score	
Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading (5712)	31 out of 50 points	156	January 1, 2014
Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Writing (5722)	44 out of 70 points	162	January 1, 2014
Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Mathematics (5732)	29 out of 50 points	150	January 1, 2014

**Note:** The Board of Education did not approve a composite score for the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732) subtests. A passing score is required on each subtest.

### **Substitute Tests for the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732)**

The Board of Education will continue the currently approved SAT® and ACT® substitute tests and passing scores for the basic skills entry assessment until comparison studies using the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732) can be completed. The Board also will continue the currently approved Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) substitute test and passing scores for reading and writing until January 1, 2014, at which time VCLA will continue as a substitute test and the new approved passing raw scores for the VCLA become effective.

On June 27, 2013, the Board of Education approved increased raw scores that are needed to obtain passing scores for the VCLA. The score scale has been adjusted to apply these new passing scores. Score reports for individuals who took the VCLA prior to January 1, 2014, will be accepted provided the candidate met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken. An individual choosing to use the VCLA (Reading and Writing) as a substitute assessment for the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712) and Writing (5722) will be required to meet the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Mathematics (5732) test requirement (or equivalent SAT® or ACT® test scores). Information regarding changes to the VCLA 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).

Information on the Board of Education's prescribed entry assessments to Virginia approved programs, including substitute tests and passing scores for the basic skills entry assessments, may be accessed at: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/educator\\_preparation/college\\_programs/entry\\_assessment.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/educator_preparation/college_programs/entry_assessment.pdf).

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver, director of teacher education, via e-mail at [JoAnne.Carver@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:JoAnne.Carver@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 371-2475.

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c: Deans and Directors of Virginia Colleges and Universities with Approved Education Programs