

August 13, 2008

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR VIRGINIA LICENSURE
AND THE SCHOOL LEADERS LICENSURE ASSESSMENT FOR PRINCIPALS**

Introduction

Applicants requesting initial teaching licensure are required to achieve passing scores on professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Board of Education unless exempted based on three years of full-time successful teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school in a state other than Virginia and a valid out-of-state license (full credential with no deficiencies) as described below under the topic, "Exemption Criteria." Applicants seeking the Technical Professional License, Pupil Personnel Services License, International License, and School Manager License are not required to complete the professional teacher's assessment. If an individual becomes employed by a Virginia school division or accredited nonpublic school in a contractual teaching position, has met the endorsement (teaching area) requirements, and has not satisfied the professional teacher's assessments, a three-year, nonrenewable provisional license may be issued upon the request of the Virginia employing educational agency.

Exemption Criteria

Individuals who hold a valid out-of-state license (full credential with no deficiencies) and who have completed a minimum of three years of full-time, successful teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school (kindergarten through grade 12) in a state other than Virginia are exempted from the professional teacher's assessment requirements (VCLA, Praxis II, and the VRA). Experience as a substitute teacher or as a teacher's aide is not acceptable experience to meet this exemption. [Please note that the valid out-of-state license (full credential with no deficiencies) and the documented teaching experience must be submitted with the application for the license.]

Assessments Required - The prescribed tests for Virginia for the Initial License are:

ACADEMIC SKILLS ASSESSMENTS

The Praxis I: assessment continues to be required as the prescribed test for entry into a Virginia teacher preparation program. The SAT and ACT scores may be used as substitute tests.

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST)			*Pre-Professional Skills Test (Computerized-PPST)		
Praxis I	Test Code	Passing Score	Praxis I C-PPST	Test Code	Passing Score
Mathematics	10730	178	Mathematics	5730	178
Reading	10710	178	Reading	5710	178
Writing	20720	176	Writing	5720	176
Composite Score		532	Composite Score		532

Source: Virginia Department of Education, August 13, 2008

* To schedule an appointment for a Computerized PPST, call Prometric, Candidate Services at 800-853-6773 or TTY 800-529-3590

SAT as substitute for Praxis I - On March 24, 2004, the Board of Education approved the use of the SAT as a substitute test for the Praxis I (Mathematics, Reading, and Writing) required for initial licensure. The Board approved the following scores:

SAT Taken Prior to April 1, 1995: a score of 1000 with at least 450 on the verbal and 510 on the mathematics tests

SAT Taken After April 1, 1995: a score of 1100 with at least 530 on the verbal and 530 on the mathematics tests

ACT as a substitute for Praxis I - On September 22, 2004, the Board of Education approved the use of ACT as a substitute test for Praxis I (Mathematics, Reading, and Writing) required for initial licensure. The Board approved the following scores:

ACT Taken Prior to April 1, 1995: a composite score of 21, with the ACT mathematics score of less than 21 and an ACT English Plus Reading score of less than 37. ACT scores taken prior to 1989 are not valid.

ACT Taken After April 1, 1995: a composite score of 24, with the ACT mathematics of less than 22, and an ACT English Plus Reading score of less than 46.

Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment-VCLA (effective since January 1, 2006)

The Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment became effective January 1, 2006, for initial licensure unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. Refer to the following Web site for more information about the test content, test dates, costs, accommodations for individuals with disabilities, and registration: www.va.nesinc.com. On March 22, 2006, the Board of Education approved cut scores for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). The cut scores for the VCLA are as follows:

VCLA	
Writing Subtest	235
Reading Subtest	235
Composite Score	470

PRAXIS II: SPECIALTY AREA TESTS

The following tests are required for the following endorsement (teaching specialty) areas for initial licensure unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. Individuals are required to satisfy the Specialty Area test(s) requirement for only one endorsement area, but it must match an endorsement area in which initial licensure is granted. For information regarding registration, test administration, fees, the policy for testing individuals with disabilities, etc., please refer to the Web site, <http://www.ets.org>, or contact the Educational Testing Service (ETS) at 1-800772-9476 or 609-771-7395 for THE PRAXIS SERIES Registration Bulletin. Hearing impaired individuals using a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may call 1-800-275-1391 for information.

Specialty Area Test	Test Code	Passing Score	Endorsement Area
Art: Content Knowledge	(0133)	159	Visual Arts
Biology: Content Knowledge	(0235)	155	Biology
Business Education	(0100)	590	Business & Information Technology
Chemistry: Content Knowledge	(0245)	153	Chemistry
Earth Science: Content Knowledge	(0571)	156	Earth Science
Elementary Education: Content Knowledge	(0014)	143	PreK-3; PreK-6
English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge	(0041)	172	English
French: Content Knowledge	(0173)	169	French
German: Content Knowledge	(0181)	162	German
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken before 9/2008)*	(0120)*	550	Family and Consumer Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken after 9/2008)	(0121)	150	Family and Consumer Sciences
Health and Physical Education PreK-12	(0856)	151	Health and Physical Education
Marketing Education (taken before 9/2008)*	(0560)	570	Marketing Education
Marketing Education (taken after 9/2008)	(0561)	147	Marketing Education
Mathematics: Content Knowledge	(0061)	147	Mathematics
Middle School English/Language Arts	(0049)	164	Middle Education English
Middle School Mathematics	(0069)	163	Middle Education Mathematics
Middle School Science	(0439)	162	Middle School Science
Middle School Social Studies	(0089)	160	Middle School Social Studies
Music: Content Knowledge	(0113)	160	Music-Vocal/Choral or Instrumental
Physics: Content Knowledge	(0265)	147	Physics
Social Studies: Content Knowledge	(0081)	161	History and Social Sciences
Spanish: Content Knowledge	(0191)	161	Spanish
Technology Education	(0050)	610	Technology Education

*Please note that the test codes changed for the Family and Consumer Sciences and Marketing Education tests effective September 1, 2008. The test scores will be reported on a different scale, so please note the change in the passing scores.

VIRGINIA READING ASSESSMENT (VRA)

The VRA became a requirement July 1, 2004. Individuals who take the VRA after July 1, 2006, will be required to meet a passing score established by the Virginia Board of Education. Individuals seeking initial licensure with endorsements in the following areas must take the Virginia Reading Assessment unless exemption criteria are met:

Early/Primary prek-3	Test Code 001	Special Education-General Curriculum	Test Code 001	Reading Specialist
Elementary Education	Test Code 001	Special Education-Hearing Impairments	Test Code 001	Test Code 002
Prek-6		Special Education-Visual Impairments	Test Code 001	

The Board of Education established cut scores for the Virginia Reading Assessments for early/primary prek-3 special education-hearing impairments, elementary, and special education teachers at 235 and for reading specialists at 245, effective July 1, 2006. For information regarding registration, test administration, fees, etc., please visit <http://www.va.nesinc.com/>.

[This assessment also may apply to those individuals with endorsements in Special Education-Emotional Disturbances, Special Education-Specific Learning Disabilities, and Special Education-Mental Retardation who were advised under previous regulations to meet this assessment requirement for full licensure.]

SCHOOL LEADERS LICENSURE ASSESSMENT (SLLA)

Effective July 1, 2005, the Board of Education approved the use of the SLLA for individuals who are seeking an administration and supervision endorsement authorizing them to serve as principals and assistant principals. The cut-score for the SLLA is 165. For information regarding registration, test administration, fees, etc. please visit the Educational Testing Services Web site: <http://www.ets.org/sls>.