



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Teacher Candidate Basic Skills Requirement

Updated October 2021

Regulations adopted by the State Board of Education on June 4, 2014 include a basic skills requirement for teacher preparation program entry and teacher certification.

As of September 1, 2015:

- Candidates starting a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) educator preparation program (formally known as “traditional route”) must meet the basic skills requirement prior to starting coursework in a program.
- Candidates seeking an initial Certificate of Eligibility (CE) (formally known as “alternate route”) must meet the basic skills requirement prior to being issued a CE, except:
 - Candidates applying for a CE with a career and technical education (CTE) endorsement –other than agriculture, business-related or family and consumer science endorsements – have until the application for a standard certificate to meet the basic skills requirement.

Meeting the Basic Skills Requirement:

1. Pass a Commissioner-approved assessment of basic skills. Currently, the only approved assessment¹ is the [Praxis Core Academic Skills](#) with passing scores as follows: Reading: 156, Math: 150, Writing: 162;
or
2. Demonstrate a score on the SAT, ACT, or GRE at or above the cut score for the year in which the exam was taken (see cut scores below).

Cut scores to meet the basic skills requirement (SAT, ACT, GRE)²

- SAT
 - If taken before 4/1/1995: Math 520, Verbal 480
 - If taken between 4/1/1995 to 2/28/2016: Math 540, Verbal 560
 - If taken on or after 3/1/2016: Math 570, Evidence-Based Reading and Writing 610
- ACT
 - If taken before 8/28/1989: Math 23, English 20
 - If taken on or after 8/28/1989: Math 23, English 23

¹ If a candidate completed and passed the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST/Praxis I) prior to June 2014, the Department will accept passing scores on those exams to satisfy the basic skills requirement (passing scores on the PPST are as follows: Reading: 175, Math: 174, Writing: 173).

² Regulations allow candidates who achieved a score on the SAT, ACT or GRE that was “approximately equal to the top-third percentile score for all test takers in the year the respective test was taken” to be exempt from taking the Praxis Core; these cut scores represent that approximate “top-third percentile score.”

- GRE
 - If taken before 8/1/2011: Quantitative 720, Verbal 530
 - If taken on or after 8/1/2011: Quantitative 156, Verbal 155

Acceptable Test Sections to Satisfy the Basic Skills Requirement

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will accept the highest score on each test section, regardless of test date.

Candidates must demonstrate competency in Math, Reading, and Writing utilizing the appropriate sections of either Praxis CORE, SAT, ACT, or GRE. The required cut scores (noted above) must be met on each of the assessments and/or sections used to meet the requirement.

Acceptable Assessment Sections by Subject

Reading	Writing	Math
Praxis Core Reading	Praxis Core Writing	Praxis Core Math
SAT Verbal or SAT Reading	SAT Verbal or SAT Reading	SAT Math
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	
ACT English	ACT English	ACT Math
GRE Verbal	GRE Verbal	GRE Quantitative

Reporting Scores

- A CEAS educator preparation program may determine the evidence required to demonstrate a candidate's score on an exam.
- CE candidates are responsible for ensuring official test scores are sent to the NJDOE. Official Praxis Core, SAT, ACT, and GRE scores must be reported directly to the NJDOE using the Designated Institution (DI) code assigned to the NJDOE, as listed below:

DI Codes for NJDOE

Assessment	DI Code
Praxis Core Academic Skills	R7666
ACT	1881
GRE	2337
SAT	9059

Contact Information

- Please review the [Test Requirements for Certification](#) in New Jersey for additional educator assessment guidance.
- To share questions or comments, please email test.questions@doe.nj.gov.