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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

**DATE:** September 19, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Teacher Certification Assessments  
**TEST APPROVAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFYING SCORES**

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to seek State Board approval of Educational Testing Service (ETS) Praxis subject assessments for English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) (5362), Early Childhood Education (5025) and Computer Science (5651) and to set the established qualifying scores for each of these tests.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

Since 1987, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has required state certification tests to assess basic skills, content knowledge, and pedagogy. These tests provide validation that teacher candidates have entry level skills to begin their professional careers. In an effort to maintain current practice in various content fields, ETS revises most tests on a five year schedule and at the same time works to create new tests based on a demonstrated need.

To support the decision-making process for state departments of education with regards to establishing a passing score, research staff from ETS designs and conducts two Multistate Standards Setting Studies for each test. The two, non-overlapping panels represent and provide a replication of the judgment process to strengthen the technical quality of the recommended passing score. The panelists, selected from states that will use the test, are recommended by state departments of education to participate as experts for the Multistate Standard Setting Studies. Maryland representatives included two representatives for the ESOL and Early Childhood Multistate Standard Setting Studies and one for the Computer Science Multistate Standard Setting Study.

Panelists judge the extent to which knowledge and/or skills reflected by the content specifications are important for entry-level teachers. Educational Testing Service also collects content-related validity evidence to confirm the importance of the content specifications for entry level teachers. The recommended cut scores from the two panels are averaged and then converted to a scaled score with a range from 100 to 200. This score becomes the recommended qualifying score of the study. Educational Testing Service and the MSDE will track the results of the tests.

Educational Testing Service guides states to adopt a score that does not exceed a plus or minus two standard errors of measurement from the recommended qualifying score. This approach ensures legal defensibility of the score.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The ESOL Praxis subject assessment is designed to measure basic linguistic and pedagogical knowledge within the context of teaching ESOL in elementary or secondary schools. According to ETS, “ETS has aligned the questions on this test with the TESOL/NCATE Standards for Recognition of Initial TESOL Programs in P-12 ESL Teacher Education as developed by Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), in collaboration with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, Inc. (CAEP), formerly known as National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, Inc. (NCATE). Educational Testing Service works in collaboration with teacher educators, higher education content specialists, and accomplished practicing teachers to keep the test updated and representative of current standards.” The Praxis 5361 is no longer current as ETS regenerated the assessment as Praxis 5362.

In September 2015, the State Board adopted and set the qualifying score of 156 for the Early Childhood Education Praxis, which had been revised to reflect the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics and with the standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This test has been effective since October 1, 2015 and remains the current Praxis content assessment for Early Childhood Education. During the September 2015 meeting, the State Board requested that the MSDE bring the test forward in two years for reconsideration.

Additionally, in September 2015, the State Board adopted and set the qualifying score of 171 for the Computer Science Praxis. The score became effective July 1, 2016. This test remains the current Praxis content assessment for Computer Science. Educational Testing Service is currently regenerating this test to update the content to better align with International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) standards for computer science educators. The standard setting panel will convene in December, 2017 and an administration date of September, 2018 has been reported by ETS. During the September, 2015 meeting the State Board requested the MSDE bring the test forward in two years for reconsideration.

**ACTION:**

I am requesting that the State Board approve the following implementation date and qualifying score for the revised Praxis subject assessment for certification in the area of English to Speakers of Other Languages:

<b>Test Code</b>	<b>Test Name</b>	<b>Qualifying</b>	<b>Score Scale</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
5362	ESOL	155	100-200	9/1/2017

I am requesting that the State Board approve the continuation of the use of the following Praxis content subject assessments:

<b>Test Code</b>	<b>Test Name</b>	<b>Qualifying</b>	<b>Score Scale</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
5025	Early Childhood Education	156	100-200	10/1/15
5651	Computer Science	171	100-200	7/1/16

# Maryland State Department of Education

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**Test Approval and Establishment of  
Qualifying Scores  
September 19, 2017**

# Purpose

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- Approval of the implementation date and qualifying score for the revised Praxis subject assessment for certification of English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Approval for continuation of the use of the following content Praxis subject assessments:
  - Early Childhood Education
  - Computer Science

# Background

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- The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has required certification tests to assess basic skills, content knowledge, and pedagogy
- Educational Testing Service (ETS) revises most tests on a five year schedule and creates new tests based on need
- ETS conducts two Multistate Standards Setting Studies for each test
  - Panelists are selected from states that use the test
  - The cut scores from the two panels are averaged and converted to a scaled score
  - This score becomes the recommended qualifying score published by ETS



# ESOL Praxis Assessment

- Alignment with the Standards for Recognition of Initial Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Programs in P-12 English as a Second Language Teacher Education
- Multistate Standard Setting conducted December 2015
  - 24 States, Guam, and the US Virgin Islands
  - 41 Panelists
    - Two from Maryland
      - Notre Dame of Maryland University
      - Carroll County Public Schools
- Recommended Passing Score: 155 on a 100-200 scale
- 17 out of 23 states have used 155 as the qualifying score
  - Five used a lower score
    - AL (149), HI (140), KS (149), VA (149), WI (149)
  - One used a higher score
    - IA (168)



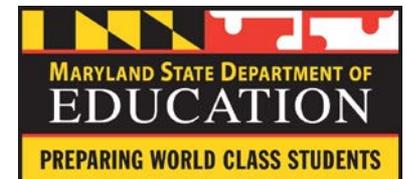
# Early Childhood Test

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- Alignment with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics and the standards of the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
  
- Multistate Standard Setting conducted February 2015
  - 16 States and District of Columbia
  - 38 Panelists
    - Two from Maryland
      - Community College of Baltimore County
      - Harford County Public Schools
  - Recommended Passing Score: 156 on a 100-200 scale
  - Currently 14 out of 15 states are using 156 as the qualifying score
    - Alabama is using 150

# Computer Science Test

- The test covers three major content categories: technology applications core, program design and development, and programming language topics.
- Multistate Standard Setting conducted April 2015
  - 14 States
  - 24 Panelists
    - One from Maryland
      - Anne Arundel County Public Schools
  - Recommended Passing Score: 171 on a 100-200 scale
  - Currently 5 out of 10 states are using 171 as the qualifying score
    - Five are using a lower score: AR (159), CO (166), ID (160), SC (159), SD (159)
- ETS is currently revising this test
  - New test expected in September 2018



# Actions

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- Approve the recommended implementation date and qualifying score for the ESOL praxis test
  - Effective September 1, 2017
  - Qualifying Score 155
  
- Continue the use of the Early Childhood Education praxis test
  - Qualifying Score 156
  
- Continue the use of the Computer Science praxis test
  - Qualifying Score 171