



**Glenda Ritz, NBCT**

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Indiana State Board of Education  
**FROM:** IDOE  
**DATE:** March 3, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Approval of Adjusted Cut Scores for Licensure Content Tests

**Background:** On December 11 and 12, 2014, Pearson ES, the state's contracted testing vendor, conducted additional passing score review studies with Indiana teachers and teacher educators on ten content-area licensing assessments: Elementary Generalist Subtest 1: Reading and English Language Arts; Elementary Generalist Subtest 2: Mathematics; Elementary Generalist Subtest 3: Science, Health and Physical Education; Elementary Generalist Subtest 4: Social Studies and Fine Arts; English Learners; Mathematics; Middle School English Language Arts; Middle School Mathematics; Middle School Science; and Science - Physical Science. These passing score review studies were conducted in collaboration with the IDOE using panels of Indiana teachers and teacher educators in each content area. Utilizing industry-accepted standards for the review process, the committees' work resulted in suggestions for appropriate cut score changes for all ten tests. This review study data was compiled and analyzed by Pearson ES and the new panel recommended cut scores and projected pass rates were presented to the board on February 4, 2015. At that time, the board voted preliminary approval for the panel-recommended cut scores (Panel B on the attached charts) so that the scores could be posted for public comment for 30 days. Accompanying this memo are the public comments received from February 6-March 3. Public comments received from March 4-8 (end of the 30 days) will be provided to the board as a supplement prior to the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Action Needed:** Under 511 IAC 15-7-2, the board must vote final approval of adjusted cut scores for the licensure tests. The rule provides that the effective date of the new scores shall not be sooner than 90 days after the date of the final action. March 12<sup>th</sup> plus 90 days = June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**DOE Recommendation:** Approval of the panel-recommended cut score for each test under consideration.

**Supporting Materials:** Public comments submitted since February 6<sup>th</sup> regarding the proposed adjusted cut scores can be found here: <http://www.jotform.com/excel/50367339707057>. Some browsers may require you to copy and paste the URL into your browser instead of just clicking on the link. You may view complete comments by clicking on an individual comment and then scrolling through the comment in the viewing window at the top of the spread sheet. You will be able to see comments already submitted and comments submitted until the end of the 30 day comment period on March 8. Also attached are the Pass Rate Analysis Comparison and Passing Score Comparison. Nancy Hahn, the Indiana representative from Pearson ES, will be present to respond to questions and provide additional information if needed.

Indiana CORE Assessments for Educator Licensure  
Passing Score Comparison

Assessment Name	Number of Scorable Items	At Panel Recommended Passing Score +2 SEM		At Panel Recommended Passing Score +1 SEM		At Panel Recommended Passing Score		At Panel Recommended Passing Score -1 SEM		At Panel Recommended Passing Score -2 SEM	
		Panel A	Panel B	Panel A	Panel B	Panel A	Panel B	Panel A	Panel B	Panel A	Panel B
		060 Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 1: Reading and English Language Arts	40	35	32	32	29	29	26	27	23
061 Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 2: Mathematics	40	35	31	32	27	30	24	27	21	24	18
062 Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 3: Science, Health, and Physical Education	32	29	26	26	24	24	21	21	18	18	16
063 Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 4: Social Studies and Fine Arts	32	27	26	25	23	22	20	20	18	17	15
019 English Learners	80	65	59	61	54	57	50	53	45	48	41
035 Mathematics	80	60	55	55	51	51	46	47	42	42	37
020 Middle School English Language Arts	80	67	63	63	58	59	54	55	50	51	46
034 Middle School Mathematics	80	65	54	61	50	57	45	53	41	49	36
036 Middle School Science	80	62	59	57	54	53	50	49	45	44	41
046 Science - Physical Science	80	65	55	61	51	57	47	53	42	49	38

INTERPRETIVE NOTES AND CAUTIONS

The notes below are an integral part of the accompanying tables.

-- Panel A Panel Recommended Passing Score is the sum of the medians of panel member item judgments for the scorable item set, rounded to the nearest integer, collected during a Standard Setting Meeting conducted in March 2013.

-- Panel B Panel Recommended Passing Score is the median of panel members' total-test judgments for the scorable item set, rounded to the nearest integer, collected during a Passing Score Review Meeting conducted in December 2014.

Current Passing Scores for Tests

Indiana CORE Assessments for Educator Licensure  
Pass Rate Analysis - March 2013 and December 2014 Results

Assessment Name	Number and Percent of Candidates At or Above Score										
	Number of First Time Test Takers	At Panel Recommended Passing Score +2 SEM		At Panel Recommended Passing Score +1 SEM		At Panel Recommended Passing Score		At Panel Recommended Passing Score -1 SEM		At Panel Recommended Passing Score -2 SEM	
		Panel A	Panel B	Panel A	Panel B	Panel A	Panel B	Panel A	Panel B	Panel A	Panel B
060 Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 1: Reading and English Language Arts	1340	4%	15%	15%	38%	38%	66%	56%	88%	81%	97%
061 Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 2: Mathematics	1329	3%	19%	14%	45%	25%	68%	45%	84%	68%	95%
062 Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 3: Science, Health, and Physical Education	1312	3%	19%	19%	41%	41%	73%	73%	93%	93%	98%
063 Elementary Education Generalist Subtest 4: Social Studies and Fine Arts	1300	2%	4%	9%	23%	34%	56%	56%	80%	87%	95%
019 English Learners	54	4%	28%	19%	52%	35%	61%	54%	80%	69%	89%
035 Mathematics	160	5%	11%	11%	21%	21%	32%	30%	42%	42%	61%
020 Middle School English Language Arts	68	0%	0%	0%	9%	7%	35%	28%	68%	60%	88%
034 Middle School Mathematics	186	1%	4%	1%	9%	2%	19%	5%	29%	12%	58%
036 Middle School Science	75	0%	1%	4%	12%	15%	23%	27%	36%	45%	55%
046 Science - Physical Science	18	6%	28%	6%	56%	28%	67%	28%	100%	67%	100%

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- Panel B Panel Recommended Passing Score is the median of panel members' total-test judgments for the scorable item set, rounded to the nearest integer, collected during a Passing Score Review Meeting conducted in December 2014.
- Data are supplied for candidates taking the tests between February 10, 2014 and January 3, 2015.
- Data reflect candidates' initial (first time) attempts.
- Data are supplied for test fields for which the number of unique candidates is ten or more.
- Passing scores for these test fields initially were adopted at the Panel-Recommended Passing Score by the State Board of Education in August 2013, using panel recommendations from March 2013.
- Extreme caution should be used in interpreting data for small numbers of candidates (e.g., less than 100 candidates).
- The candidates for whom results are presented in this document may not reflect the same proportion of all the types and capabilities of candidates in the population who will take the tests in the future.

Pass rates based on current passing scores

This document includes some materials that are test secure and/or confidential for other reasons. As such, it should not be circulated to unauthorized persons. The accompanying notes are an integral part of this document.