

August 24, 2009

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 initial licensure are as follows:

ACADEMIC SKILLS ASSESSMENT

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

CONTENT ASSESSMENT

Praxis II (if applicable) – Refer to page 2 for the listing of required Praxis II assessments.

VIRGINIA READING ASSESSMENT, if applicable. This test is required for individuals seeking an endorsement as a reading specialist or individuals seeking initial licensure with endorsements in any of the following endorsements (teaching areas): Early/Primary preK-3, Elementary Education preK-6, Special Education-General Curriculum, Special Education-Hearing Impairments, and Special Education-Visual Impairments. [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.]

VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT (effective 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:

Writing Sub Test:	235
Reading Sub Test:	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, www.ets.org, or contact the Educational Testing Service (ETS) at 1-800-772-9476 or 609-771-7395 for THE PRAXIS SERIES Registration Bulletin or write to THE PRAXIS SERIES, ETS, P.O. Box 6051, Princeton, NJ 08541-6051. Hearing impaired individuals using a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may call 1-800-275-1391 for information.

<u>SPECIALTY AREA TEST</u>	<u>TEST CODE</u>	<u>PASSING SCORES</u>	<u>ENDORSEMENT AREA</u>
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)

Individuals seeking initial licensure with endorsements in the following areas must take the Virginia Reading Assessment for Elementary and Special Education Teachers (Test Code 001) unless the exemption criteria are met:

Early/Primary prek-3

Elementary Education prek-6

Special Education-General Curriculum

Special Education-Hearing Impairments

Special Education-Visual Impairments

Note: 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.

Individuals seeking an endorsement as a **Reading Specialist** must take the Virginia Reading Assessment for Reading Specialists (Test Code 002).

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. The Board of Education established cut scores for the Virginia Reading Assessments for 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 the Web site, www.va.nesinc.com.

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 following Educational Testing Services Web site: www.ets.org/sls.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Educational Testing Service has introduced a new version of the School Leaders Licensure Assessment. The first administration of the revised test will be given nationwide in September 2009. However, Virginia requested a final administration of the former version of the test because we have not yet set a passing score for the new version.

The special administration in Virginia has been scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2009. Information regarding this special assessment has been posted on the ETS Web site and can be accessed at: <http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.c988ba0e5dd572bada20bc47c3921509/?vgnextoid=a461961355455010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnnextchannel=0fdc197a484f4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD>. Candidates must submit an application for this special administration by mail.

We anticipate that the Board of Education will set a passing score for the new version of the SLLA in early 2010. If any Virginia candidates take the new version during the September 2009 administration, they will not know if they passed the assessment until the new passing score is determined.

VIRGINIA TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Note: The Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) 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. Please consult with the Virginia teacher preparation program for more information.