05-071 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Chapter 13: QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR TEACHERS, EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Summary: This chapter establishes qualifying examination requirements for teachers, educational specialists, and administrators seeking initial certification in Maine. There are four types of initial certificates: conditional, provisional, targeted need and transitional endorsement.

Applicants for provisional teacher certification must attain minimum qualifying scores on the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) also known as PRAXIS I in the basic skill areas of reading, writing, and mathematics, on the appropriate content area PRAXIS II exam, and on the appropriate Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) exam.

Applicants seeking initial administrator certification have the option of completing the School Leader Licensure Assessment or the School Superintendent Assessment in lieu of coursework to meet some competency requirements in accordance with Chapter 115 Part II.

13.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter is to establish the standard qualifying examinations and scores for applicants for initial teacher certificates, for initial educational specialist certificates, and for initial administrator certificates.

13.2 DEFINITIONS

As used in this Chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

A. **Administrator**: "Administrator" means an individual certified to provide services in any of the following capacities: superintendent or assistant superintendent of schools, a principal or assistant principal, a teaching principal, a director or assistant director of special education, a director or assistant director of career and technical education, a curriculum coordinator, an instructional supervisor, and a director or assistant director of adult and community education.

B. **Assessment**: "Assessment" means the appropriate tests as determined by the State Board of Education.

C. **Commissioner**: "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Education or a designee.

D. **Conditional Certificate**: "Conditional Certificate" means the one-year certificate issued to teachers, educational specialists, and administrators who have not met all of the requirements for an initial certificate or endorsement issued pursuant to Chapter 115 Part I, Certification Authorization and Approval of Educational Personnel.

E. **Department**: “Department” means the Department of Education.

F. **Educational Specialist**: “Educational Specialist” means an individual certified to provide professional services in any of the following capacities: athletic director, school counselor, library-media specialist, literacy specialist, school psychological service provider, school nurse, special education consultant, speech-language clinician, or career and technical education evaluator.

G. **Endorsement**: "Endorsement" means a notation on a certificate issued to a teacher that specifies the grades and subject area for which the certificate is valid. A certificate may bear one or more endorsements.

H. **Initial Certification**: “Initial Certification” means the initial credential issued for certification to an individual who has never held the certificate or the endorsement previously in Maine. An initial certificate could be a conditional, a provisional, a targeted need certificate or a transitional endorsement.

I. **Provisional Certificate**: “Provisional Certificate” means the regular initial two-year teacher certificate issued by the Department to teachers and educational specialists on or after July 1, 1988.

J. **Professional Certificate**: “Professional certificate” means the regular five-year certificate issued by the Department on or after July 1, 1988.

K. **Targeted Need Certificate**: “Targeted need certificate” means the one-year certificate issued to teachers and educational specialists who are employed in a shortage area and are not eligible for another certificate, as specified in Chapter 115 Part I.

L. **Transitional Endorsement**: “Transitional endorsement” means the endorsement issued to a certified teacher who does not meet all of the requirements for the endorsement, as specified in Chapter 115 Part I.

13.3 QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR INITIAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION REQUIRING A BACHELOR’S DEGREE

3.1 Examination Components

For applicants for an initial teacher certificate requiring a bachelor’s degree, the examinations validated for use in this program are the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST), PRAXIS II, and Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT). The PPST program has three major components which test the applicant in three basic skill areas: reading, writing, and mathematics.

3.2 Examination Sequence

The Educational Testing Service schedules the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST), PRAXIS II and Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) at sites across Maine and the nation. The applicant registers for the examinations directly with the Educational Testing Service.

The Educational Testing Service schedules the computer version of the PPST on an on-going basis at sites across Maine and the nation. The applicant registers for the examinations directly with the Educational Testing Service.

A. An applicant may take the major components of the PPST at separate times.

B. An applicant who fails to meet the qualifying scores requirement for any component of the Pre-Professional Skills Test or PRAXIS II or the Principles of Learning and Teaching may retake the exam at scheduled examination sessions as often as desired to meet the requirements.

3.3 **Qualifying Scores**

Applicants for initial teacher certification requiring a bachelor's degree must achieve the qualifying scores on the qualifying examinations as set forth below, if the examination is required in Chapter 115 Part II.

A. The qualifying scores on the Pre-Professional Skills Test for individuals requiring a bachelor's degree are as follows:

Reading	176
Writing	175
Mathematics	175

Applicants for initial teacher certification must achieve a composite score of 526 on the three sections of the PPST, with no single score on any section being more than three points lower than the required score above.

B. The qualifying scores on PRAXIS II content area exams are as follows:

End./ Cert. Code	Endorsement or Certificate	Grade Level	PRAXIS II TEST Code	PRAXIS II	Minimum Score
081	Early Childhood Teacher	Birth to Age 5	0021	Educ. of Young Children	166
020	General Elementary	K-8	0014*** OR 5031*** (comprised of: 5032,5033, 5034, and 5035)	Elem. School: CK	145*** OR 5031: 5032-165 5033-164 5034-155 5035-159
029	Early ~~Childhood~~ Elementary	K-3	0021	Educ. Of Young Children	166
071	Library/Media Specialist	K-12	0311 *	Library/Media Specialist	143
075	Guidance Counselor	K-12	~~0420~~ 0421***	~~School Guidance & Counseling~~ Professional School Counselor	~~570~~ 156***

092	Literacy Specialist	K-12	~~0300~~ 0301***	Reading Specialist	~~530~~ 164***
100	Secondary English	7-12	0041	English Language, Literature/Composition	160
100	Middle English	5-8	0049	Middle Language Arts	155
200	Secondary Social Studies	7-12	0081	Social Studies: CK	157
200	Middle Social Studies	5-8	0089	Middle Social Studies	153
282	Teacher Disabled Children	Birth to Age 5	~~0690~~ 0691***	Special Education; Preschool/Early Childhood	~~550~~ 159***
282	Teacher Disabled Children	K-8	0354 *	Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications	151
282	Teacher Disabled Children	7-12	0354 *	Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications	151
286	Students w/ Severe Disabilities	K-12	0321	Spec. Ed.: Teaching Students w/ Mental Retardation	140
291	Blind/Visually Impaired	K-12	~~0281 **~~ 0282***	~~Teaching Students with Visual Impairments~~ Special Education: Visual Impairments	~~154 **~~ 163***
292	Deaf/Hearing Impaired	K-12	~~0271~~ 0272***	~~Educ. of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students~~ Special Education: Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students	~~146~~ 160***
293	Speech & Hearing Clinician	~~K-12~~ b-12	0881**	Teaching Speech to Students w/Language Impairments	152 **
300	Secondary Mathematics	7-12	0061	Mathematics: CK	126
300	Middle Mathematics	5-8	0069	Middle School Mathematics	148
340	Middle Science	5-8	0439	Middle School Science	142
350	Secondary Physical Science	7-12	0481	Physical Science: CK	147
395	Secondary Life Science	7-12	0235	Biology: CK	150
410	Latin	K-12	~~0600~~ 0601***	Latin~~: CK~~	~~610~~ 152***
420	French	K-12	5174 *	French: ~~CK~~ World Language	162
430	German	K-12	5183 *	German: ~~CK~~ World Language	163
440	Spanish	K-12	5195 *	Spanish: ~~CK~~ World Language	168
470	Chinese	K-12	5665***	Chinese (Mandarin): World Language	164***
510	Physical Education	K-12	0091	Physical Education: CK	149
520	Health	K-12	0550	Health Education	640
614	Music	K-12	0113	Music: CK	151
620	Visual Arts	K-12	0134 **	Art: CK	158 **
625	Theater	K-12	~~0640~~ 0641***	Theatre	~~530~~ 146***
640	Business Education	K-12	0101 *	Business Education	154
660	ESL	K-12	0361**	~~ESL~~ English to Speakers of Other Languages	144 **
670	Family & Consumer Science	K-12	0121 *	Family & Consumer Science	155
700	Industrial Arts	K-12	0051 **	Technology Education	159 **

* Applicants for #670 Family and Consumer Science may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0120 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0121 until 8-31-14. As of 9-1-14, all applicants must meet a passing score on test # 0121.

* Applicants for #071 Library/Media Specialist may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0310 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0311 until 8-31-15. As of 9-1-15, all applicants must meet a passing score on test # 0311.

* Applicants for #420 French may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0173 or PRAXIS II Test Code 5174 until 8-31-15. As of 9-1-15, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 5174.

* Applicants for #430 German may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0181 or PRAXIS II Test Code 5183 until 8-31-15. As of 9-1-15, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 5183.

* Applicants for #440 Spanish may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0191 or PRAXIS II Test Code 5195 until 8-31-15. As of 9-1-15, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 5195.

* Applicants for #640 Business Education may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0100 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0101 until 8-31-15. As of 9-1-15, all applicants must meet a passing score on test #0101.

* Applicants for #282 Teacher Disabled Children (K-8, 7-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0353 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0354 until 8-31-15. As of 9-1-15, all applicants must meet a passing score on test #0354.

~~** Applicants for #291 Blind/Visually Impaired (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0280 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0281 until 8-31-16. As of 9-1-16, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0281.~~

** Applicants for #293 Speech & Hearing Clinician (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0880 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0881 until 8-31-16. As of 9-1-16, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0881.

** Applicants for #660 English as a Second Language (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0360 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0361 until 8-31-16. As of 9-1-16, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0361.

** Applicants for #620 Visual Arts (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0133 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0134 until 8-31-16. As of 9-1-16, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0134.

*** Applicants for #625 Theater (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0640 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0641 until 8-31-17. As of 9-1-17, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0641.

*** Applicants for #410 Latin (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0600 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0601 until 8-31-17. As of 9-1-17, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0601.

*** Applicants for #291 Blind/Visually Impaired (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0280 , PRAXIS II Test Code 0281, or Praxis II Test Code 0282 until 8-31-16. Between 9-1-16 and 8-31-17, applicants may meet a passing score on PRAXIS II Test Code 0281 or Praxis II Test Code 0282. As of 9-1-17, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0282.

*** Applicants for #292 Deaf/Hearing Impaired (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0271 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0272 until 8-31-17. As of 9-1-17, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0272.

*** Applicants for #282 Teacher/Disabled Children (birth to age 5) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0690 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0691 until 8-31-17. As of 9-1-17, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0691.

*** Applicants for #092 Literacy Specialist (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0300 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0301 until 8-31-17. As of 9-1-17, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0301.

*** Applicants for #075 Guidance Counselor (K-12) may meet a passing score on either PRAXIS II Test Code 0420 or PRAXIS II Test Code 0421 until 8-31-17. As of 9-1-17, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0421.

*** Applicants issued a certificate with an endorsement for #470 Chinese (K-12) on or after 8-1-12 must meet a passing score on Praxis II Test Code 5665. Applicants who continuously hold a conditional or targeted need certificate or a transitional endorsement initially issued prior to 8-1-12 will not need to meet the Praxis II test requirement.

*** Applicants for endorsement #020 General Elementary (K-8) may meet passing scores on Praxis II Test Code 5031 (Reading/Language Arts Test Code #5032, Mathematics Test Code #5033, Social Studies Test Code #5034, and Science Test Code #5035) or Praxis II Test Code #0014 until 7-31-15. As of, 8-1-15, all applicants must meet a passing score on all sections of Praxis II Test Code #5031.

C. The qualifying scores on Principles of Learning and Teaching are as follows:

Endorsement or Certificate Grade Level	Principles of Learning & Teaching Test Code	Minimum Score
Early Childhood-3	0621 **	157 **
K-8	0622 **	160 **
5-8	0623 **	160 **
7-12	0624 **	157 **
K-12	0622 or 0624 **	0622: 160 or 0624: 157 **
9-12	0624 **	157 **

** Applicants for certificates requiring the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) PRAXIS exam for Early Childhood to Grade 3 may meet a passing score on either PLT Test Code 0521 or PLT Test Code 0621 until 8-31-16. As of 9-1-16, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0621.

** Applicants for certificates requiring the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) PRAXIS exam for Kindergarten to Grade 8 may meet a passing score on either PLT Test Code 0522 or PLT Test Code 0622 until 8-31-16. As of 9-1-16, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0622.

** Applicants for certificates requiring the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) PRAXIS exam for Middle Grades 5-8 may meet a passing score on either PLT Test Code 0523 or PLT Test Code 0623 until 8-31-16. As of 9-1-16, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0623.

** Applicants for certificates requiring the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) PRAXIS exam for Secondary Grades 7-12 or Vocational (Career & Technical Education) Grades 9-12 may meet a passing score on either PLT Test Code 0524 or PLT Test Code 0624 until 8-31-16. As of 9-1-16, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0624.

** Applicants for special K-12 certificates requiring the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) PRAXIS exam may meet a passing score on either the K-8 PLT OR the 7-12 PLT as described above.

3.4 **PRAXIS II Content Area Examinations Are Not Available**

Applicants for initial teacher or educational specialist certification will not be required to take a PRAXIS II examination if the appropriate examination is not available.

3.5 **Conditional or Targeted Need Certificates**

Applicants who have not achieved Maine's qualifying scores on the required PPST are eligible for an initial conditional certificate or initial targeted need certificate provided they have met all other requirements for the certificate or endorsement in accordance with Chapter 115 Part I and Chapter 115 Part II.

A certificate issued under this subsection may not be suspended or revoked by the Commissioner due to the holder's failure to attain qualifying scores during the term of the initial conditional or initial targeted need certificate.

3.6 **Transitional Endorsements**

Applicants receiving a transitional endorsement will not be required to take the PPST or Principles of Learning and Teaching examinations.

3.7 Applicants holding a valid career and technical education endorsement who are seeking a K-3, K-8, 5-8, 7-12, or K-12 endorsement will not be required to take the PPST or Principles of Learning and Teaching examinations.

3.8 Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities that prevent them from taking the examination(s) under standard conditions may request special accommodations directly through the Educational Testing Service. The documentation requirements and accommodation request procedures are described in the registration bulletin for the specific examinations.

3.9 Pre-lingually Deaf Applicants

Applicants receiving an initial teacher of deaf or hearing impaired student endorsement under Chapter 115 Part II Section 2.2 will not be required to take the Pre-Professional Skills Test, PRAXIS II Content area assessment or the Principles of Learning and Teaching examination, if they meet the following criteria:

1. Applicant provides documentation that he/she is pre-lingually deaf;

2. Applicant provides documentation that he/she has graduated from a state or national approved program for teacher of deaf children; and

3. Applicant provides documentation that he/she is proficient in American Sign Language.

3.10 Out-of-State Certified Teachers and Educational Specialists

Applicants holding a current teaching certificate from another state who are seeking a teaching certificate in the same endorsement area will not be required to take the PPST or Principles of Learning and Teaching examinations.

Applicants holding a current educational specialist certificate from another state who are seeking a certificate in the same area will not be required to take the Principles of Learning and Teaching examination.

13.4 QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR TEACHING CERTIFICATES NOT REQUIRING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

4.1 Examination Components

For applicants for an initial teacher certificate not requiring a bachelor's degree, the examination validated for use in this program is the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST), PRAXIS II, and Principles of Learning and Teaching. The PPST program has three major components which test the applicant in three basic skill areas: reading, writing, and mathematics.

4.2 Examination Sequence

The Educational Testing Service schedules the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST), PRAXIS II and Principles of Learning and Teaching at sites across Maine and the nation. The applicant registers for the examinations directly with the Educational Testing Service.

The Educational Testing Service schedules the computer version of the PPST on an on-going basis at sites across Maine and the nation. The applicant registers for the examinations directly with the Educational Testing Service.

A. An applicant may take the major components of the PPST at separate times.

B. An applicant who fails to meet the qualifying scores requirement for any component of the Pre-Professional Skills Test or PRAXIS II or the Principles of Learning and Teaching may retake the exam at scheduled examination sessions as often as desired to meet the requirements.

4.3 **Qualifying Scores**

Applicants for initial teacher certification not requiring a bachelor's degree must achieve the qualifying score the qualifying examinations as set forth below.

A. The qualifying scores on the Pre-Professional Skills Test for individuals not requiring a bachelor's degree are as follows:

Subject	Scale Scores
Reading	173
Writing	168
Mathematics	172

Applicants for initial teacher certification must achieve a composite score of 513 on the three sections of the PPST, with no single score on any section being more than three points lower than the required score above.

B. The qualifying score on PRAXIS II content area exam for all Career and Technical Education endorsements is as follows:

Endorsement Certificate	Grade Level	PRAXIS II Test Code	PRAXIS II	Minimum Score
All Career & Technical Education	9-12	0890	Vocational: GK	540

C. Applicants for initial teacher certification with a Career and Technical Education (9-12) endorsement must take the Principles of Learning and Teaching (7 - 12) examination.

The qualifying score on Principles of Learning and Teaching is as follows:

Endorsement or Certificate Grade Level	Principles of Learning & Teaching Test Code	Minimum Score
9-12	0624 **	157 **

** Applicants for Career and Technical Education certificates requiring the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) PRAXIS exam for may meet a passing score on either PLT Test Code 0524 or PLT Test Code 0624 until 8-31-16. As of 9-1-16, all applicants must meet a passing score on test 0624.

4.4 **Conditional Certification**

Applicants who have not achieved Maine's qualifying scores on the required qualifying examinations are eligible for an initial conditional certificate, provided they have met all other requirements for a conditional certificate in accordance with Chapter 115 Part I and Chapter 115 Part II.

A conditional certificate issued under this subsection may not be suspended or revoked by the Commissioner due to the holder's failure to attain qualifying scores during the term of the conditional certificate.

4.5 Applicants holding a valid career and technical education endorsement who are seeking an additional career and technical education endorsement will not be required to take the PPST or Principles of Learning and Teaching examinations.

4.6 Applicants holding a valid K-3, K-8, 5-8, 7-12, or K-12 endorsement who are seeking a career and technical education endorsement will not be required to take the PPST or Principles of Learning and Teaching examinations.

4.7 **Individuals with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities that prevent them from taking the examination(s) under standard conditions may request special accommodations directly through the Educational Testing Service. The documentation requirements and accommodation request procedures are described in the registration bulletin for the specific examinations.

4.8 **Native Language Endorsement**

Applicants receiving an initial Native Language endorsement under Chapter 115 Part II Section 5.1 Pathway 2 will not be required to take the Pre-Professional Skills Test or the Principles of Learning and Teaching examination.

Applicants for an initial Native Language endorsement will not be required to take a PRAXIS II examination until the appropriate examination is available. Applicants receiving a provisional or professional certificate with a Native Language endorsement prior to a minimum score being set will not need to meet the passing score at a later date.

13.5 QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

5.1 Applicants for an initial superintendent or an initial assistant superintendent certificate, may complete the School Superintendent Assessment to meet the knowledge areas in accordance with Chapter 115 Part II**.**

The School Superintendent Assessment is an alternative pathway to meeting specified knowledge areas and is not a requirement for each applicant.

5.2 **Examination Sequence**

The Educational Testing Service schedules the School Superintendent Assessment at sites across Maine and the nation. The applicant registers for the examination directly with the Educational Testing Service.

An applicant may retake the examination at scheduled examination sessions as often as desired to meet the requirement.

5.3 **Qualifying Scores**

The qualifying score on the School Superintendent Assessment (test code #1021) for individuals seeking a superintendent or assistant superintendent certificate is ___*. *Applicants may meet the passing score on either School Superintendent Assessment test code # 1020 or test code #1021 until 8-31-17. As of 9-1-17, all applicants must meet a passing score on test code #1021. (Note: Test #1021 was regenerated in May, 2012, and a recommended cut score is expected by June 15, 2012. The new cut score recommended by the standard setting study panel will appear in the final rule.)

5.4 Applicants for an initial administrator certificate other than superintendent or assistant superintendent, may complete the School Leaders Licensure Assessment to meet the knowledge areas in accordance with Chapter 115 Part II.

The School Leaders Licensure Assessment is an alternative pathway to meeting specified knowledge areas and is not a requirement for each applicant.

5.5 **Examination Sequence**

The Educational Testing Service schedules the School Leaders Licensure Assessment at sites across Maine and the nation. The applicant registers for the examination directly with the Educational Testing Service.

An applicant may retake the examination at scheduled examination sessions as often as desired to meet the requirement.

5.6 **Qualifying Scores**

The qualifying score on the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (code #1011*) for individuals seeking an administrator certificate other than a superintendent or assistant superintendent certificate is 163.

* Applicants may meet a passing score on either Test Code #1010 (score-168) or Test Code #1011 (score 163) until 8-31-14. As of 9-1-14, all applicants must meet a passing score on test code #1011 (score 163).

5.7 **Individuals with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities that prevent them from taking the examination under standard conditions may request special accommodations directly through the

Educational Testing Service. The documentation requirements and accommodation request procedures are described in the registration bulletin for the specific examination.

13.6 CERTIFICATION RECORDS

6.1 Records

The score on the teacher qualifying examination shall become part of the teacher's certification records. Only the final qualifying score will be retained in the applicant's record.

6.2 Confidentiality

Confidentiality of certification records shall be governed by the provisions of Title 20-A, Section 13004.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 13031-13038 and 13035-A

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