



## NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Teacher Candidate Basic Skills Requirement

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** (formerly 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)** (formerly 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 business-related or family and consumer science endorsements – have until the application for a standard certificate to meet the basic skills requirement.

#### Two Ways to Meet the Basic Skills Requirement:

1. **Pass a Commissioner-approved assessment of basic skills.** Currently, the only approved assessment<sup>1</sup> is the [Praxis Core Academic Skills](#) with passing scores as follows: Reading: 156, Math: 150, Writing: 162.
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*). The following conditions apply:
  - 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 New Jersey Department of Education by providing the score report in a sealed, stamped envelope from the testing agency or having the score report sent directly from the testing agency.
  - The New Jersey Department of Education will accept the highest score on each test section, regardless of test date.

#### Cut scores to meet basic skills requirement (SAT, ACT, GRE)<sup>2</sup>

- **SAT**
  - If taken before 4/1/1995: Math 520, Reading 480
  - If taken between 4/1/1995 to 2/28/2016: Math 540, Reading 560
  - If taken on or after 3/1/2016: Math 570, 610 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing or 30 Reading Section
- **ACT**
  - If taken before 8/28/1989: Math 23, English 20
  - If taken on or after 8/28/1989: Math 23, English 23
- **GRE**
  - If taken before 8/1/2011: Quantitative 720, Verbal 530
  - If taken on or after 8/1/2011: Quantitative 156, Verbal 155

#### For More Information

- Visit the [Educator Preparation web page](#) or view answers to frequently asked questions: [http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/faq\\_rpr.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/faq_rpr.shtml).
- To share questions or comments, please email [rpr@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:rpr@doe.state.nj.us).

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.”