

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.

013.1 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.

013.2 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	Elem. School: CK	145
029	Early Childhood	K-3	0021	Educ. Of Young Children	166
071	Library/Media Specialist	K-12	0310	Library/Media Specialist	590
075	Guidance Counselor	K-12	0420	School Guidance & Counseling	570
092	Literacy Specialist	K-12	0300	Reading Specialist	530
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*	0353	Exceptional Students: CK	157
282	Teacher Disabled Children	Birth to Age 5*	0690	Special Education; Preschool/Early Childhood	550
282	Teacher Disabled Children	K-8	0353	Exceptional Students: CK	157
282	Teacher Disabled Children	7-12	0353	Exceptional Students: CK	157
286	Students w/ Severe Disabilities	K-12	0321	Spec. Ed.: Teaching Students w/ Mental Retardation	140
291	Blind/Visually Impaired	K-12	0280	Teaching Students with Visual Impairments	660
292	Deaf/Hearing Impaired	K-12	0271	Educ. of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students	
293	Speech & Hearing Clinician	K-12	0880	Teaching Speech to Students w/ Language Impairments	540
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	Latin: CK	610
420	French	K-12	0173	French: CK	157
430	German	K-12	0181	German: CK	156
440	Spanish	K-12	0191	Spanish: CK	158
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	0133	Art: CK	151
625	Theater	K-12	0640	Theatre	530
640	Business Education	K-12	0100	Business education	560
650	Bilingual	K-12	0360	ESL	540
660	ESL	K-12	0360	ESL	540
670	Home Economics	K-12	0120	Family & Consumer Science	570
700	Industrial Arts	K-12	0050	Technology Education	570

*Through July 31, 2008, applicants for a #282 Teacher of Disabled Students Level Birth to Age 5 must meet a passing score on either Praxis II Test Code 0353 or Praxis Test Code 0690. As of August 1, 2008, an applicant must meet a passing score on Praxis II Test Code 0690.

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
K-3	0521	172
K-8	0522	166

5-8	0523	163
7-12	0524	162
K-12	0522 or 0524	0522: 166 or 0524: 162
9-12	0524	

3.4 **Qualifying Scores Have Not Been Set**

This section of Chapter 13 is effective only until such time as a minimum score is established.

- A. Applicants for initial teacher certification in teacher of the deaf/hearing impaired must take the PRAXIS II examination as designated in this rule. Until a specific minimum score is established, there will not be a required minimum score. Applicants receiving a provisional or professional certificate prior to a minimum score being set will not need to meet the passing score at a later date.
- B. Applicants, except from Maine approved programs, for initial teacher certification with a secondary (7-12) endorsement must take the Principles of Learning and Teaching (7-12) examination. Until a specific minimum score is established, there will not be a required minimum score. Applicants receiving a provisional or professional certificate prior to a minimum score being set will not need to meet the passing score at a later date.

3.5 **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.

3.6 **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 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.

3.7 **Transitional Endorsements**

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

- 3.8 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.

3.9 **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.

3.10 **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.

3.11 **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.

013.4 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. Applicants receiving a provisional or professional certificate prior to a minimum score being set will not need to meet the passing score at a later date. This section of Chapter 13 is effective only until such time as a minimum score is established.

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 for individuals seeking a superintendent or assistant superintendent certificate is 165.

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 for individuals seeking an administrator certificate other than a superintendent or assistant superintendent certificate is 168.

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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