



Every Child Deserves a Qualified Educator

The growing shortage of K-12 teachers has become one of the biggest crises facing state policymakers. In the face of these ever-evolving challenges, it is integral that we are still providing the next generation with the qualified educators they need.



The Situation:

With teacher shortages on the rise, some are considering the elimination of teacher licensure testing as a solution for filling classrooms. The constant need for educators is putting a strain on school districts everywhere. ETS understands the urgent need for classroom teachers, however, the long-term need for quality educators cannot be met without teacher licensure tests.



Praxis is Part of Your Solution

Each Praxis licensure assessment reflects what educators across the United States believe to be important for new teachers, ensuring they have the skills necessary for success in the classroom.



Licensure Tests:

- Provide a consistent measure of teacher candidate's abilities.
- Have shown to result in greater impact on student achievement.
- Assure parents, policymakers, and communities that our teachers have the knowledge needed to enter the classroom.

"I cannot underscore enough how important it is that educators have deep content knowledge in order to make content more understandable and accessible for all kids. The ETS Praxis series is one of our valuable educational tools that helps to ensure our Colorado educators have a firm understanding of their core content and can meet the learning needs of every, single student in our state."

– Dr. Colleen O'Neil, Associate Commissioner, Educator Talent, Colorado Department of Education



The Praxis tests are developed by educators, for educators. The tests use national standards to ensure teacher candidates are qualified and have a long track record of success. The Praxis Core and Subject Matter tests have been adopted by over 40 states and territories, resulting in over 500,000 tests taken each year.

- **Praxis Core** tests reflect the fundamental literacy and numeracy skills that teacher educators have identified as necessary to the success of all teacher candidates, no matter what subject or grade level they aspire to teach.
- **Praxis Subject Matter** tests measure a teacher candidate’s knowledge and subject-specific content knowledge needed for teaching and classroom readiness.

What can we do to address teacher shortages without sacrificing teacher quality?



New Approach to Passing Scores

Consider reducing current passing scores by one to two standard errors of measure to allow for a greater number of candidates into the pipeline while still ensuring a minimum standard of quality.

Establish pilot programs, or a “must test but no-fault” testing policy period, targeting shortage areas to remove one licensure requirement.



Holistic Scoring

Adopt a composite scoring for tests with minimum scores in each subtest.

Ex. Use Praxis Core and set a composite score of 450 for all three subtests but set a mini-mum score of 140 for each test.

Utilize holistic scoring across licensure scores, GPA, and other assessments.

Ex. Give different point values for performance on Praxis, GPA and Student Teaching and require a number of total points for a license.

Utilize sliding scale for licensure scores and GPA.

Ex. Allow for a lower Praxis passing score for candidates with higher GPA levels and allow a lower GPA for candidates with a higher Praxis score.



Teacher Workforce Enhancements

Financial: Consider financial support as an incentive for teachers who teach in Pk-12 schools. This may include loan forgiveness, housing incentives or mortgage down payment assistance.

Programming: Create programs or courses that generate exposure and awareness for public school teaching fields.

Grow Your Own Teacher: Develop programs to recruit and train skilled teachers from within communities to bring racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity into schools.

Reciprocity: Offer full reciprocity for all out-of-state teachers who have already completed an approved educator preparation program and been certified in their home state.

Please contact Peter Yeager, pyeager@ets.org for more information.