## Testing Requirements by Certificate Type

**Topics:**
- General Requirements
- Assessment Exceptions
- Basic Skills Requirement
- Instructional Certificate Subject Matter (Content) Assessments
- Educational Specialist Certificate Subject Matter (Content) Assessments
- Supervisory, Administrative and Letter of Eligibility Certificate Subject Matter (Content) Assessments
- Vocational Instructional Certificate Subject Matter (Content) Assessments

### General Requirements
Testing requirements listed for the “initial” or first Pennsylvania credential are identified in regulation. 22 Pa. Code § 49.18 (Assessment) requires an assessment of basic skills, professional knowledge and practice and subject matter knowledge.

- Subsequent Pennsylvania credentials require only the subject matter knowledge or content test indicated for the certification area.

- Effective January 1, 2010 candidates seeking certification after completing an approved certification program may use the GPA-scaled scores on content tests to qualify for certification.
  - The GPA may not be used by those seeking an intern certificate.
  - The GPA may not be used by those applying to add a subject area to an existing certificate by only taking a test.
  - The GPA may not be used by those taking a test to achieve Highly Qualified Status.

- Older Pennsylvania tests taken at the time they were active are accepted if they are in our Teacher Information Management System (TIMS), sent electronically and directly from the test provider, or verified by another U.S. state department of education. Refer to the testing CSPG 21 for more information about replaced tests.

For current qualifying scores please review Certification, Testing and Scores.

### Assessment Exceptions

The basic skills assessment requirement is waived for all certificates as of November 1, 2014 if the applicant:

- Completed an approved post-baccalaureate certification program OR
- Holds a post-baccalaureate graduate level degree.

Additional Certificate Exceptions:

- Instructional Certificates: As of July 1, 2011 applicants that submit a copy of a current and valid out-of-state instructional certificate that is comparable in grade and content area plus verification of two years of full-time teaching experience are not required to take the basic skills assessments.

Educational Specialist Certificate Exceptions:

- Educational Specialist candidates holding a valid license in their subject area issued by the Pennsylvania Department of State are exempt from all testing.
Vocational Certificate Exceptions:

- Effective July 1, 2014, candidates in *post-baccalaureate* vocational instructional programs are not required to take the basic skills assessment in reading and writing. The basic skills mathematics assessment is still required for vocational level II certification.

**Basic Skills Requirement**

The basic skills requirement may be met by any of the following assessment methods. Modules from different providers may not be combined to meet the requirement. Candidates seeking their first Pennsylvania certificate must meet the basic skills requirement unless an exception listed above applies.

- The Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment (PAPA) modules in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.
  - Visit [www.pa.nesinc.com](http://www.pa.nesinc.com) to register for test code PA701.
  - Scores must be electronically submitted directly to the Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality from the test vendor.
  - A minimum score of 220 is required on each module. A composite scoring option is available.

- The Core Academic Skills for Educators (CORE) modules in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.
  - Visit [www.ets.org/praxis/pa](http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa) to register for test codes 5712, 5722 and 5732.
  - Scores must be electronically submitted directly to the Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality from the test vendor.
  - A minimum score of 156 (Reading), 162 (Writing) and 150 (Mathematics) is required. A composite scoring option is available.

- The Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) combined score of 1550 or higher with no individual section -- Critical Reading, Writing, Mathematics -- score of less than 500.
  - The best section scores from different test sessions may be selected
  - Submit official test scores and a TIMS application cover sheet to the Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality in an envelope sealed by the test vendor. Scores may also be verified by the Pennsylvania Approved Preparation Programs through TIMS.

- The American College Test (ACT) Plus Writing composite score of 23 accompanied by a combined English/Writing score of 22 and a Math score of 21
  - The best section scores from different test sessions may be selected
  - Submit official test scores and a TIMS application cover sheet to the Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality in an envelope sealed by the test vendor. Scores may also be verified by the Pennsylvania Approved Preparation Programs through TIMS.

- Older basic skills tests taken at the time they were active, such as the PPST Reading, Writing, and Mathematics tests taken between September 1, 2000 and December 31, 2012, are accepted. (Note: PPST scores from vocational candidates are accepted if taken prior to September 1, 2014.) Refer to the testing [CSPG 21](http://www.pennsylvania.gov) for more information about replaced tests.
Testing Requirements by Certificate Type

**Instructional Certificate Subject Matter (Content) Assessments**

The assessments listed in the chart below may be taken for instructional or intern certification or to achieve highly qualified status.

- **Adding a Subject to an Existing Instructional or Intern Certificate By Testing**
  - A certified instructional teacher or intern may add another instructional certificate area through testing and submitting an application.
  - **Exceptions**: Cooperative Education, Health and Physical Education, Reading Specialist and all special education certificates may not be added by testing.
  - The GPA scaled scores may not be used for testing add-ons.

- Intern certification requires a passing score on the content test. The GPA scaled scores may not be used for intern certificates.

- Highly Qualified status may be obtained by achieving a passing score on a test and submitting an application. The GPA scaled scores may not be used for highly qualified purposes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructional Certification Subject Area &amp; Grade Span</th>
<th>CURRENT INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT ASSESSMENTS</th>
<th>Test Provider</th>
<th>Passing Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PK-12 Instructional Certificates (all subjects with this grade span)</td>
<td>Fundamental Subjects Content Knowledge (5511/0511)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture 7-12</td>
<td>Agriculture (5701) effective 7/1/2014</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art PK-12</td>
<td>Art: Content Knowledge (5134/0134)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology 7-12</td>
<td>Biology: Content Knowledge (5235/0235)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, Computer &amp; Information Technology PK-12</td>
<td>Business Education (5101/0101)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry 7-12</td>
<td>Chemistry: Content Knowledge (5245/0245)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship Education 7-12</td>
<td>Citizenship Education: Content Knowledge (5087/0087)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications 7-12</td>
<td>Speech Communication (5221)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Education 7-12</td>
<td>Cooperative Education (0811) limited offerings until discontinued 6/2016</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth and Space Science 7-12</td>
<td>Earth and Space Sciences: Content Knowledge (5571/0571)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English 7-12</td>
<td>English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Education PK-12</td>
<td>Environmental Education (0831) limited offerings until discontinued 6/2016</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family &amp; Consumer Science PK-12</td>
<td>Family &amp; Consumer Science (5121/0121) ends 2/28/2015</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Science 7-12</td>
<td>General Science: Content Knowledge (5435/0435)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>146</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Testing Requirements by Certificate Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructional Certification Subject Area &amp; Grade Span</th>
<th>CURRENT INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT ASSESSMENTS</th>
<th>Test Provider</th>
<th>Passing Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grades 4-8</strong></td>
<td>All three modules (5152) are required PLUS at least one concentration assessment.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 4-8: All Concentrations</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Grades 4-8: Module 1-Pedagogy (5153)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 4-8: All Concentrations</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Grades 4-8: Module 2-English Language Arts &amp; Social Studies (5154)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 4-8: All Concentrations</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Grades 4-8: Module 3-Mathematics &amp; Science (5155)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 4-8: English/Language Arts Concentration</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Grades 4-8: Subject Concentration - English Language Arts (5156)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 4-8: Mathematics Concentration</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Grades 4-8: Subject Concentration - Mathematics (5158)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 4-8: Science Concentration</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Grades 4-8: Subject Concentration - Science (5159)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 4-8: Social Studies Concentration</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Grades 4-8: Subject Concentration - Social Studies (5157)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grades PreK-4</strong></td>
<td>All three modules are required. (PA702)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades PreK-4</td>
<td>Pre-K-4 Module 1: Child Dev, Assessment, Professionalism (PA006)</td>
<td>ES Pearson</td>
<td>197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades PreK-4</td>
<td>Pre-K-4 Module 2: Lang, Social Stud, Arts (PA007)</td>
<td>ES Pearson</td>
<td>193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades PreK-4</td>
<td>Pre-K-4 Module 3: Math, Science, Health (PA008)</td>
<td>ES Pearson</td>
<td>193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Physical Education PK-12</td>
<td>Health &amp; Physical Education Content Knowledge (5856/0856) ends 2/28/2015</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Education PK-12</td>
<td>Health Education (5551) effective 9/1/2013</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Science PK-12</td>
<td>Library Media Specialist (5311/0311)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing (Distributive) Education PK-12</td>
<td>Marketing Education (5561)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics 7-12</td>
<td>Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music PK-12</td>
<td>Music: Content Knowledge (5113/0113)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics 7-12</td>
<td>Physics: Content Knowledge (5265/0265)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Specialist PK-12</td>
<td>Reading Specialist (5301/0301)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety/Driver Education 7-12</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Department of Education administered test available spring 2015</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies 7-12</td>
<td>Social Studies: Content Knowledge (5081/0081)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
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### Instructional Certification Subject Area & Grade Span

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT ASSESSMENTS</th>
<th>Test Provider</th>
<th>Passing Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Education 7-12</strong> Both modules are required. (PA704)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Education 7-12</td>
<td>Special Education: 7-12 Module 1 (PA015)</td>
<td>ES Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education 7-12</td>
<td>Special Education: 7-12 Module 2 (PA016)</td>
<td>ES Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Education PK-8</strong> Both modules are required. (PA703)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education PK-8</td>
<td>Special Education: PreK-8 Module 1 (PA011)</td>
<td>ES Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education PK-8</td>
<td>Special Education: PreK-8 Module 2 (PA012)</td>
<td>ES Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education: Hearing Impaired PK-12</td>
<td>Special Education: Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students (5272/0272)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education: Visually Impaired PK-12</td>
<td>Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (5282/0282)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education: Speech &amp; Language Impaired PK-12</td>
<td>Speech Language Pathology (5331) effective 9/1/2014 (replaced 0881/5881/0330/5330)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Education PK-12</td>
<td>Technology Education (5051/0051)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
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#### World Languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT ASSESSMENTS</th>
<th>Test Provider</th>
<th>Passing Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese PK-12</td>
<td>Chinese (Mandarin): World Language (5665/0665)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French PK-12</td>
<td>French: World Languages (5174)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German PK-12</td>
<td>German: World Languages (5183)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin PK-12</td>
<td>Latin (5601/0601) effective 8/1/2012</td>
<td>ETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish PK-12</td>
<td>Spanish: World Languages (5195)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various Languages* PK-12</td>
<td>ACTFL OPI/OPIc and WPT: World Languages</td>
<td>LTI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language availability changes frequently. Please visit the [ACTFL](https://www.actfl.org) website for current tests. The oral and written tests are required for certification.

### Educational Specialist Certificate Subject Matter (Content) Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST CONTENT ASSESSMENTS</th>
<th>Test Provider</th>
<th>Passing Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Hygienist No content assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary &amp; Secondary School Counselor (5421/0421)</td>
<td>Professional School Counselor</td>
<td>ETS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Updated March 4, 2015
## Testing Requirements by Certificate Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Specialist Certification Subject Area</th>
<th>CURRENT EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST CONTENT ASSESSMENTS</th>
<th>Test Provider</th>
<th>Passing Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home &amp; School Visitor</td>
<td>No content assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Technology</td>
<td>No content assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Nurse</td>
<td>No content assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Psychologist</td>
<td>School Psychologist (5402) effective 9/1/2014 (replaced 0401)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech and Language Pathologist</td>
<td>Speech Language Pathology (5331) effective 9/1/2014 (replaced 0881/5881/0330/5330)</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Supervisory, Administrative and Letter of Eligibility Certificate Subject Matter (Content) Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supervisory, Administrative and Letter of Eligibility Subject Area</th>
<th>CURRENT SUPERVISORY, ADMINISTRATIVE AND LETTER OF ELIGIBILITY CONTENT TESTS</th>
<th>Test Provider</th>
<th>Passing Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>School Leadership Licensure Assessment/SLLA (6011/1011) for Principals and Vocational Directors only</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Eligibility</td>
<td>School Superintendent Assessment/SSA (6021/1021) effective 1/01/2013 for Superintendents and Intermediate Unit Directors</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisory</td>
<td>Educational Leadership: Admin &amp; Supervision (5411/0411) for Supervisory Certificates only.</td>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vocational Instructional Certificate Subject Matter (Content) Assessments

- Vocational Intern: Vocational interns must complete the Occupational Competency Assessment (OCA) through an approved vocational instructional program provider (Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Penn State/Main or Temple University/Main).
- Vocational I: Basic Skills Assessments: Reading and Writing
- Vocational II: Basic Skills Assessment: Mathematics or the Vocational General Knowledge test (0890) if taken prior to 9/1/2008.
- Vocational Subject Add-on to an existing vocational certificate: Complete the Occupational Competency Assessment (OCA) through an approved vocational instructional program provider (Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Penn State/Main or Temple University/Main).