

Montana Board of Public Education Executive Summary

Date: January 18-19, 2024

Presentation	Praxis Test Reviews- American Sign Language Proficiency Interview
Presenter	Crystal Andrews Lisa Colon Durham
Position Title	Director of Accreditation and Licensure Office of Public Instruction Director, Educational Partnerships Educational Testing Service
Overview	With the addition to ARM 10.58.511(4) effective July 1, 2023, MT needs to adopt the ETS Praxis exam and set the qualifying score. This presentation will include an overview of the process along with recommendations from several working groups.
Requested Decision(s)	Action Item- To recommend approval or denial of the #0634 American Sign Language Proficiency Interview assessment and the qualifying score of 3+.
Related Issue(s)	The revised Special Education assessment will be presented in March as an information item.
Recommendation(s)	Recommend the adoption of the ASL assessment with a qualifying score of 3+.





ETS PRAXIS AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY INTERVIEW(ASLPI) TEST REVIEW

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Putting Montana Students First **A+**



WHY THE NEED?

With the revision to ARM [10.58.511](#)(4) World Languages effective July 1, 2023, MT needs to adopt the ETS Praxis exam for Test 0634 ASL Proficiency Interview and set the qualifying score.



WHO IS THE TEST FOR?

- A person who wants to add the ASL endorsement as a World Language.
- This endorsement is for educators who are teaching ASL as an elective (similar to Spanish, French, etc.).

10.58.511 World Languages

- (4) The American Sign Language program requires that successful candidates:
 - (a) demonstrate understanding of first and second language acquisition;
 - (b) demonstrate knowledge and application of linguistics of American Sign Language;
 - (c) demonstrate understanding of aspects of the deaf culture and community;
 - (d) demonstrate understanding of methods of teaching American Sign Language;
 - (e) demonstrate knowledge and application of American Sign Language IV or higher; and
 - (f) demonstrate understanding of American Sign Language literature.

BACKGROUND

Praxis and Gallaudet University

ETS has agreed to facilitate registration for the Gallaudet American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) and Title II reporting of results for Praxis states requiring a demonstration of ASL proficiency as part of the licensure process for teachers of American Sign Language.

ETS would not assume any responsibility for developing/maintaining the test content, administration, scoring, or reporting (to candidates and states).

ETS will only perform registration gateway functions and serve as the repository of ASLPI results, along with other Praxis test results, for candidates that indicate ETS as a DI.



OVERVIEW OF TEST

- Administered by Gallaudet University
- Holistic language evaluation used to determine global ASL proficiency
- 20-25 minute video recorded interactive dialogue between the examinee and the interviewer
- Rated by a team of evaluators
- Overall proficiency level reported on a 0-5 rating scale
- Used by the American Sign Language Teacher Association as a certification requirement

OVERVIEW OF TEST

American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASPLI)

- The purpose of the ASPLI is to measure the American Sign Language (ASL) skills that an individual has at a given point in time.
- As a criterion-based evaluation designed to test your overall ability to use and understand ASL, each recorded interview is rated on the basis of specific criteria in five different categories:
 - Grammar
 - Vocabulary
 - Accent/Production
 - Fluency
 - Comprehension
- Gallaudet uses a five-point rubric to score the ASPLI; however, "plus" scores are available. Therefore, the scoring/reporting scale is 5, 4+, 4, 3+, 3, 2+, 2, 1+, and 1

The American Sign Language Teacher's Association (ASLTA)

- Provides three levels of certification for its member teachers— Provisional, Qualified and Professional
- One of the components of the ASLTA certification process is demonstrated ASL proficiency on a standardized measure
- One of the two measures cited in the ASLTA guidelines is the ASPLI. The ASPLI passing (or cut) score for the provisional certification is 3+

MONTANA STANDARDS

World Languages

(4) The American Sign Language program requires that successful candidates:

a) demonstrate understanding of first and second language acquisition;	b) demonstrate knowledge and application of linguistics of American Sign Language;	c) demonstrate understanding of aspects of the deaf culture and community;	d) demonstrate understanding of methods of teaching American Sign Language;	e) demonstrate knowledge and application of American Sign Language IV or higher; and	f) demonstrate understanding of American Sign Language literature.
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World Languages #4- <https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/RuleNo.asp?RN=10%2E58%2E511>

- Standards B & E are the application of ASL. As a criterion-based evaluation designed to test the candidate's overall ability to use and understand ASL.
- Standards A, C, D, and F are the knowledge and skills of the language, while not directly assessed, there is an understanding of these the candidate must possess in order to be proficient in their signing and communication of ASL.

RECOMMENDED PASSING SCORE

- ETS is serving only a facilitation role for our Praxis client states and does not have development, administration, scoring or reporting responsibilities for the ASLPI.
- It is appropriate for states to make a policy decision regarding a passing score on the ASLPI guided by the existing requirements of a national organization.
 - The American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) provides three levels of certification for its member teachers — Provisional, Qualified, and Professional. One of the components of the ASLTA certification process is demonstrated ASL proficiency on a standardized measure. One of the two measures cited in the ASLTA guidelines is the ASLPI. The ASLPI passing (or cut) score for the provisional certification is 3+.

PASSING SCORE



Passing Score of 3+

Signers at this proficiency level demonstrate spontaneous elaboration on all familiar and some unfamiliar topics with increasing incorporation of language patterns other than those of the target language. When they attempt to perform tasks at the next proficiency level, they exhibit features of breakdown, such as shorter paragraph-level discourse, errors with mapping, cohesion, affect and non-manual signals (NMS) and incorporation of English mouthing. Those breakdowns create an increased amount of hesitation in discourse. Despite noticeable imperfections, they are able to present broad vocabulary with sufficient accuracy and clarity. Comprehension is good on all topics, but repetition and/or rephrasing might be needed.

STATE ADOPTIONS

American Sign Language Proficiency Assessment (ASPLI)

State/Province	Qualifying Score	State/Province	Qualifying Score
Arkansas	3+ (170)	Pennsylvania	3 (160)
California	3+ (170)	Rhode Island	3+ (170)
Colorado	3+ (170)	Tennessee	3+ (170)
Idaho	3 (160)	Utah	3+ (170)
Indiana	3+ (170)	Vermont	3+ (170)
Kentucky	3+ (170)	West Virginia	4 (180)
Louisiana	3+ (170)	Wyoming	3 (160)

Cut scores range from 3 (160) to 4 (180)

10 of the 14 states using ASPLI adopted a passing score of 3+ (170)

Two of the states surrounding Montana adopted a passing score of 3 (160)



RECOMMENDATIONS

ASL Expert Panel	2 votes for 3.0 and 3 votes for 3+
Praxis Working Committee	Unanimous vote for 3+
Montana Council	Unanimous vote for 3+

TO COME

- Spring 2024 the Special Education (5355) exam will be up for review.
 - Expert panel will meet in February.
 - Informational item to BPE in March.
 - Action item to BPE in May.
 - Test adoption in August.