

Montana Board of Public Education Executive Summary

Date: March 2023

Presentation	Praxis Test Reviews- Sciences, School Counseling, and School Librarian
Presenter	Crystal Andrews
Position Title	Director of Accreditation, Educator Preparation Programs, and School Accreditation Office of Public Instruction
Overview	Montana's current Praxis tests in biology, general science, earth/space sciences, chemistry, physics, school counseling, and school librarian will expire and no longer be available after August 30, 2023. At the BPE meeting in January you were presented with the recommended passing scores from the Praxis Review Panel, the Praxis Working Committee, and the MT Council of Deans of Education. This meeting is to seek approval of all seven scores.
Requested Decision(s)	Action
Related Issue(s)	None
Recommendation(s)	Approve the proposed score(s) for each of the new content standard tests.




Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Elsie Arntzen, State Superintendent
opi.mt.gov

Montana Council of Deans of Education

Carroll College • Montana State University Northern
Montana State University Billings • Montana State University
Rocky Mountain College • Salish Kootenai College
Stone Child College • University of Montana
University of Montana Western
University of Providence

MEMORANDUM

TO: MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
DR. JULIE MURGEL
CRYSTAL ANDREWS

FROM: MONTANA COUNCIL OF DEANS OF EDUCATION
DR. ADREA LAWRENCE, CO-CHAIR 
DR. STEVIE SCHMITZ, CO-CHAIR

SUBJECT: PRAXIS TEST REVIEWS – SCIENCES, SCHOOL COUNSELING, SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 2022

CC: MCCALL FLYNN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Montana's current Praxis tests in biology, general science, earth/space sciences, chemistry, physics, school counseling, and school librarian will expire and no longer be available after August 30, 2023.

Panels of experts representing P-12 educators and post-secondary educator preparation program faculty convened October 26-28, 2022 to review and discuss the regenerated tests and propose passing scores for Montana educators. At the end of six of the seven sessions, the panels reached consensus on test scores they deemed appropriate for Montana educators. The seventh session with school librarians was split with a five-five vote.

On November 2, 2022, the Praxis Working Committee (PWC) convened to review the panel's recommendation. Seven Montana EPPs had representatives at the PWC meeting and unanimously concurred with the panels' recommendations and recommended a passing score on the school librarian test consistent with the ETS national standard setting study recommendation.

The MCDE met on November 16, 2022 to review the panels' and PWC's recommendations. Eight Montana EPPs had representatives at the meeting and unanimously agreed with the prior decisions and sets forth the following recommendations to the OPI and Board of Public Education:

Biology

The MCDE unanimously recommends the use of the #5236 Biology Praxis test with a score of 154 for educator licensure purposes in Montana.

General Science (Broadfield Science)

The MCDE unanimously recommends the use of the #5436 General Science Praxis test with a score of 141 for educator licensure purposes in Montana with a plan to reevaluate this score in two years (Autumn 2024) as data is available.

Earth and Space Science

The MCDE unanimously recommends the use of the #5572 Earth and Space Sciences Praxis test with a score of 154 for educator licensure purposes in Montana.

Chemistry

The MCDE unanimously recommends the use of the #5246 Chemistry Praxis test with a score of 146 for educator licensure purposes in Montana.

Physics

The MCDE unanimously recommends the use of the #5266 Physics Praxis test with a score of 145 for educator licensure purposes in Montana.

School Counselor

The MCDE unanimously recommends the use of the #5422 School Counselor Praxis test with a score of 159 for educator licensure purposes in Montana. (Note: Test not required for CACREP-accredited programs at UM and MSU.)

School Librarian

The MCDE acknowledges the panel's split decision and recommends the use of the #5312 School Librarian Praxis test with a score of 154 for educator licensure purposes in Montana to include a plan to reevaluate this score in two years (Autumn 2024) as data is available.



Proposed ETS Praxis Test Review

March 9-10, 2023

Purpose of the Praxis Test Review

Montana's current Praxis tests in biology, general science, earth/space sciences, chemistry, physics, school counseling, and school librarian will expire and no longer be available after August 30, 2023. We are here today to share information gathered from expert panels in each area, the Praxis working committees' recommendation, along with the Montana Council of Deans recommendation.

Timeline

Date	Meeting	Subject
Summer 2022	Planning Meeting	Nick Bellack, Kristi Steinberg, Crystal Andrews
Oct. 5-6, 2022	Montana Council of Deans	<i>Information Only</i> - Flyer for nominations shared
Oct. 21, 2022	-	Nominations due for review panel
Oct. 26-28, 2022	ETS Praxis Test Review	Hybrid review panels
Nov. 2, 2022	Praxis Working Committee	<i>Action Item</i> - review panel recommendation and approve tests and scores
Nov. 16, 2022	Montana Council of Deans	<i>Action Item</i> - review panel recommendation and approve tests and scores
Jan. 12-13, 2023	Board of Public Instruction	<i>Information Only</i> - review recommendations from panel, PWC, and MCDE
Jan. 27, 2023	CSPAC Meeting	<i>Action Item</i> - recommendation for the BPE of the approval of tests and scores
Mar. 9-10, 2023	Board of Public Education	<i>Action Item</i> - approve and adopt new tests and scores

Purpose of the Expert Panel

The purpose of a test review is to have expert content area practitioners examine the test, review materials, and make decisions as to whether qualifying scores are set appropriately for Montana teacher education candidates.

Review Panel Schedule

Day and Date	Time	Subject Area
Wednesday, October 26, 2022	9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Biology (5236)
	12:00 PM- 2:30 PM	General Science (5436)
	2:45 PM- 5:15 PM	Earth/Space Sciences (5572)
Thursday, October 27, 2022	9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Chemistry (5246)
	12:15 PM- 2:45 PM	Physics (5266)
Friday, October 28, 2022	9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	School Counselor (5422)
	12:15 PM- 2:45 PM	School Librarian (5312)

Recommended New Scores

Biology 5236	154	Chemistry 5246	146	School Counselor 5422	159
General Science 5436	141	Physics 5266	145	School Librarian 5312	154
Earth and Space 5572	154				