

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO BE PROPOSED:

April 6, 2015

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education (SBE), pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the following subject area assessments with the appropriate passing standards for the certification in the areas listed, effective September 1, 2015:

Test Name	Required for Certification Endorsement	Recommended Passing Score
Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences (5122)	Home Economics PK-12 (#045)	160
ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview - Computer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Italian • Spanish • Portuguese • Russian • Mandarin Chinese • Other World Languages 	World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #018 French 7-12 • #019 German 7-12 • #020 Italian 7-12 • #023 Spanish 7-12 • #024 Other World Language 7-12 • #022 Russian 7-12 • #024 Other World Language 7-12 • #024 Other World Languages 7-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Intermediate High • Intermediate High • Intermediate High
ACTFL Written Proficiency Test - Computer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Italian • Spanish • Portuguese • Russian • Mandarin Chinese • Other World Languages 	World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #018 French 7-12 • #019 German 7-12 • #020 Italian 7-12 • #023 Spanish 7-12 • #024 Other World Language 7-12 • #022 Russian 7-12 • #024 Other World Language 7-12 • #024 Other World Languages 7-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Intermediate High • Intermediate High • Intermediate High

unless such person meets requirements for an exemption from such testing requirements as provided in subsection (f) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes,

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____, this sixth day of April, Two Thousand Fifteen.

Signed: _____

Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Interim Commissioner of Education
DATE: April 6, 2015
SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Adoption of:

Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences (5122)
ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview - Computer (OPIc) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• French• German• Italian• Russian• Spanish• Portuguese• Mandarin Chinese
ACTFL Written Proficiency Test- Computer (WPTc) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• French• German• Italian• Russian• Spanish• Portuguese• Mandarin Chinese

Recommendation to raise the passing standard of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview and Written Proficiency Test to Advanced Low for:

- French
- German
- Italian
- Spanish
- Portuguese

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report recommends the adoption of the assessments listed above to meet subject knowledge requirements for issuance of a certification endorsement in the respective endorsement areas, for those candidates who do not meet the requirements for a statutory exemption from such testing requirements.

The proposed implementation date of these tests is September 1, 2015.

This report also recommends raising the passing standard of the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Written Proficiency Test (WPT) from Intermediate-High to Advanced-Low for the following languages: French, Spanish, German, Italian and Portuguese, effective September 1, 2015.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Subsection (b) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) requires that any person seeking certification who does not already hold a valid Connecticut certificate must achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education subject area assessment, unless otherwise eligible for an exemption as provided in subsection (f) of C.G.S., Section 10-145f.

The following chart provides historical adoption information on the current tests required, new testing options and the proposed new tests to be adopted:

Current Test Required	Proposed New Testing Option	New Test to Be Adopted in Place of Current Requirement	Rationale for Adoption of New Test
Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences (5121)	None	Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences (5122)	In summer 2014, Educational Testing Service (ETS) alerted the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) that the current test for Family and Consumer Sciences (5121) would be discontinued in August 2015, and that a regenerated Family and Consumer Sciences test (5122) had been developed to replace the current test.
ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Italian • Russian • Spanish • Portuguese 	ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview Computer (OPIc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Italian • Russian • Spanish • Portuguese 	None	The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) was adopted in 2001. Since adoption, ACTFL has developed an Oral Proficiency Test administered by computer in a

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandarin Chinese • Other World Languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandarin Chinese • Other World Languages 		<p>secure, proctored testing environment. ACTFL has determined that the OPIc offers the same high standards of validity and reliability as the traditional OPI, and maintains the same standardized scoring procedures for both test modes. Additionally, the OPIc is available for candidates at half the cost of the OPI. However, it is recommended that candidates are offered the option of taking the test in either mode (traditional or computer-administered) to maintain fairness and provide candidates a testing environment with which they are most comfortable.</p>
<p>ACTFL Written Proficiency Test (WPT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Italian • Russian • Spanish • Portuguese • Mandarin Chinese • Other World Languages 	<p>ACTFL Written Proficiency Test – Computer (WPTc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Italian • Russian • Spanish • Portuguese • Mandarin Chinese • Other World Languages 	None	<p>The ACTFL Writing Proficiency Tests (WPT) was adopted in 2001. Since adoption, ACTFL has developed a Written Proficiency Test administered by computer in a secure, proctored testing environment. ACTFL has determined that the WPTc offers the same high standards of validity and reliability as the traditional WPT, and maintains the same</p>

			<p>standardized scoring procedures for both test modes. Additionally, the WPTc is available for candidates at half the cost of the WPT. However, it is recommended that candidates are offered the option of taking the test in either mode (traditional or computer-administered) to maintain fairness and provide candidates a testing environment with which they are most comfortable.</p>
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RECOMMENDATIONS AND JUSTIFICATIONS

In February 2015, two different panels of educators (see Appendix A) were convened to review the tests, recommend test adoption, and recommend minimum passing scores. Panel members were selected based on their preparation and certification relative to the certification area for which the test would be required. Panelists were further chosen based on their experience, higher education expertise and, to the extent possible, regional, racial, ethnic and gender diversity.

The panel meetings were facilitated by representatives from the CSDE and ETS or the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) who presented an overview of the state context on testing for certification. Panelists were presented with standard setting data established through multistate standard setting panels.

The recommendations of each panel are outlined below followed by CSDE’s recommendation for each of the test cut scores.

Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences Test (5122)

In summer 2014, ETS alerted the CSDE that the existing Family and Consumer Sciences test (5121) will be discontinued in August 2015 and be replaced by a regenerated test (5122). In February 2015, the CSDE convened a panel of Family and Consumer Science educators (see Appendix A) to review the regenerated test and make recommendations regarding an appropriate cut score.

The panel was presented with the following cut score recommendations outlined in the ETS multistate standard-setting report:

- Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences Test: a scaled score of 153 on a 100-200 scale.

Subsequent to test review, each panelist was asked to make a recommendation regarding the minimum passing score for Connecticut adoption.

Additionally, the panel and CSDE staff reviewed the list of states that have adopted or are planning to adopt these tests and the minimum passing scores set by those states:

States Adopting Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences (5122)		
	State	Passing Score
1.	Alabama	161
2.	Alaska	153
3.	Delaware	153
4.	District of Columbia	153
5.	Hawaii	153
6.	Idaho	153
7.	Kansas	153
8.	Louisiana	153
9.	Maryland	153
10.	Missouri	153
11.	Nevada	153
12.	New Jersey	153
13.	North Carolina	153
14.	North Dakota	153
15.	South Carolina	159
16.	South Dakota	153
17.	Tennessee	153
18.	Utah	160
19.	Wyoming	153
<i>States in Process of Adopting</i>		
20.	<i>Maine</i>	-
21.	<i>Rhode Island</i>	-

The panel expressed agreement about the appropriateness of the content covered on the Family and Consumer Sciences test and indicated that the assessment aligned well with national and Connecticut standards. The primary concern raised by the panel was that one content category focused too heavily on resource management. The panel recommended that, in future regenerations of this test, ETS shift the weight assigned to resource management to other, more rigorous content categories included on the test.

The panel recommended the Praxis II test for Family and Consumer Sciences (5122) be adopted with the passing standard set at 160, one standard error of measure above the ETS multistate recommended passing standard (153). A scale score of 160 represents a raw score of 73 out of 110 possible points. The panel also recommended the following caveat:

- review the Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences test (5122) after two years to evaluate test data and determine whether the passing standard should be raised

ACTFL OPIc and WPTc for World Languages Tests

In fall 2014, the CSDE convened four separate panels of educators to review the new ETS Praxis II World Language tests for French, German, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.

While the committees indicated that the Praxis II World Language tests included a sufficient number of items assessing grammar and culture, none recommended that the Praxis II World Language tests be adopted because too little focus and weight was placed on speaking, listening and writing in these tests. The panels recommended the CSDE reexamine the ACTFL OPI and WPT to determine whether any regeneration or updates to these tests had been implemented since their adoption in 2001 thereby allowing them to continue to meet Connecticut’s needs for certification examinations for world languages. The panels also recommended the CSDE reexamine the passing standards set for each language for the ACTFL OPI and WPT, indicating that the current passing standard may be too low in comparison to national standards and accrediting body recommendations.

In response to the panels’ recommendations, the CSDE worked with ACTFL to review the updated OPI and WPT, now available by computer. When taking the OPIc, candidates respond to questions using a microphone. Their speech is captured and uploaded immediately onto a secure internet site. Certified OPIc Raters use their individual logins and passwords to enter the OPIc Rating Site for access by raters. The OPIc Rater listens to the sample and finds the best match between the sample and the ACTFL rubric. In February 2015, the CSDE reconvened educators from each of the previous world language panels to form one committee to review the ACTFL OPIc and WPTc tests as well as to revisit the passing standards for each language.

The panel was presented with the following cut score recommendations outlined in the ACTFL Proficiency Standards Guidelines, the Federal Defense Language Institute Language Learning Difficulty Scale, and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) recommendations:

Language Difficulty Category	Recommended Passing Standard	
	Speaking	Writing
Group I and II Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Italian • Spanish • Portuguese 	Advanced-Low	Advanced-Low
Group III and IV Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian • Arabic • Mandarin Chinese • Japanese 	Intermediate-High	Intermediate-High

Subsequent to test review, each panelist was asked to make a recommendation regarding test adoption and minimum passing standards.

The panel expressed agreement about the rigor of the tests and the appropriateness of the content covered on the ACTFL OPIc and WPTc. The panel indicated that the ACTFL tests were superior to the Praxis II World Language tests in speaking and writing requirements, though the panel did express concern that grammar conventions are not explicitly and distinctly assessed through the WPT/WPTc.

The panel recommended ACTFL OPIc and WPTc be adopted with the following caveat:

- the CSDE maintain the traditional (human-delivered) OPI and (handwritten) WPT as test mode options for Connecticut world language teacher candidates.

Furthermore, the panel recommended the passing standard for the OPIc, WPTc, OPI and WPT be differentiated by language learning difficulty group based upon CAEP, ACTFL and federal guidelines. Specifically, the panel recommended that the passing standard for Group I and II languages (French, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese) be set at Advanced-Low, while the passing standard for Group III and IV languages (Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Hebrew, Arabic and Japanese) be set at Intermediate-High for both the speaking and writing tests in both modes. These scores are based upon the ACTFL rubrics for speakers of World Languages.

CSDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the panel recommendations, the CSDE recommends the adoption of the following minimum passing scores:

CSDE Recommended Minimum Passing Scores	
Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences test (#5122)	160*
ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview – Computer ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview**	Advanced - Low for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Spanish • Italian • Portuguese Intermediate - High for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian • Mandarin Chinese • Arabic • Other World Languages
ACTFL Written Proficiency Test – Computer ACTFL Written Proficiency Test**	Advanced - Low for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Spanish • Italian • Portuguese Intermediate - High for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian • Mandarin Chinese • Arabic • Other World Languages

*One standard error of measurement above the multistate recommended cut score

** This is a change from the current passing standard for the traditional test mode

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

CSDE recommends the following transition policies:

1. Continue to accept the Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences test (5121) taken prior to September 1, 2015, with a passing score that meets or exceeds the current minimum cut score (168) through August 31, 2020. This policy will allow transition time for those candidates who have previously passed this test to use the results for purposes of certification eligibility.
2. Continue to accept the ACTFL OPI and WPT for all world languages taken prior to September 1, 2015, with a passing score that meets or exceeds the current minimum cut score (Intermediate-High) through August 31, 2020. This policy will allow transition time for those candidates who have previously passed these tests to use results for purposes of certification eligibility.
3. On and after September 1, 2015, any person who applies for certification and has **not** achieved passing scores on the Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences test (5121) will be required to pass the new Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences test (5122) test.
4. On and after September 1, 2015, any person who applies for certification and has **not** achieved passing scores (Intermediate-High) on the ACTFL OPI and/or WPT for French, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese will be required to meet the new passing standard of Advanced-Low for the OPI and/or WPT for these languages, whichever exam has not been passed prior to September 1, 2015.
5. The OPIc and WPTc will be made available for candidates on and after September 1, 2015. Candidates will have the option of taking the computerized or traditional modes of these tests on and after this date.

To assist candidates in preparing for the Praxis tests, ETS provides the following support resources:

- Study Companions including Tests-at-a-Glance, test objectives and sample items;
- Computer-Delivered Testing Demonstration (video);
- What to Expect on the Day of Your Computer-Delivered Test (video);
- Strategies for Success (video); and
- Study Guides, which include practice tests, with analysis of incorrect answers (90-day fee-based subscriptions).

To assist candidates in preparing for the OPIc, WPTc, OPI or WPT, ACTFL provides the following support resources:

- test descriptions; and
- demo tests of the OPIc (video).

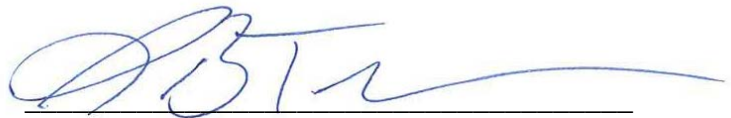
Over the next several years, the Connecticut State Department of Education will be reviewing all tests currently required for preparation and certification and recommending for adoption those tests that assess a continuum of knowledge and skills recommended by the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC) and the State Board of Education as part of an overall vision for raising educator standards.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Upon adoption of these tests and the recommended cut scores, the CSDE will take the following actions:

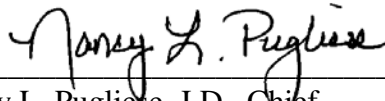
1. send notification to the appropriate administrators at the educator preparation programs, outlining the new testing requirements, implementation date and the transition policy;
2. update the CSDE certification website with the new testing requirements; and
3. review the Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences (5122) test by February 2017 to evaluate the continued appropriateness of the passing standard.

Prepared by:



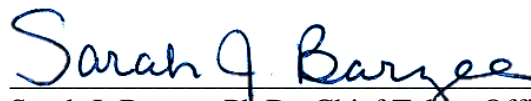
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Reviewed by:



Nancy L. Pugliese, J.D., Chief
Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification

Approved by:



Sarah J. Barzee, Ph.D., Chief Talent Officer
Talent Office

**Praxis II Family and Consumer Science (5122)
Review Panel Members
February 18, 2015**

Shatanna DeRosie	Windsor Public Schools	Windsor High School
Maura Quatrano	Watertown Public Schools	Swift Middle School
Adele Zimmitti-Rosa	Southington Public Schools	Southington High School
Megan Smith	Stratford Public Schools	Stratford High School
Carrie Bauchemin	Danbury Public Schools	Danbury High School
Gianna Gurga	Waterbury Public Schools	Reed and Duggan Schools
Diane Rigby	Simsbury Public Schools	Henry James Memorial School

**ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview -Computer and Written Proficiency Interview - Computer
Review Panel Members
February 25, 2015**

Nitza Haddad	Bridgeport Public Schools	Bridgeport Military Academy
Shinn Xin Tan	New Haven Public Schools	Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School
Jessica Haxhi	New Haven Public Schools	World Language Supervisor
Diejun Xu	Windham Public Schools	Windham High School
Audrey Berthelot	New Haven Public Schools	King Robinson Schools
Reggie Brulotte	Waterford Public Schools	Waterford High School
Elizabeth Lapman	COLT	President
Nadia DeRoy	Ellington Public Schools	Ellington High School
Deborah Lubas	Ellington Public Schools	Ellington High School
Eleanor Riker	Plymouth Public Schools	Eli Terry Jr. Middle School
Alison Flannery	Newtown Public Schools	Newtown High School
Elena Schmitt	Southern Connecticut State University	World Language Faculty
Christine Dombrowski	Southern Connecticut State University	World Language Faculty
Manuela Wagner	University of Connecticut	World Language Department
Rosalia Pulino	Cromwell Public Schools	Cromwell High School