



A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES



CONNECTICUT
Education

2024-2025

Performance Office Update to the Certification Board

June 9, 2025

Connecticut State
Department of Education



Agenda



Praxis Bridge



Understanding the Standard Error of Measurement



Praxis II Bridge - Overview

What is it?

- Individuals who score within one standard error of measurement (SEM) of the passing score on a Praxis II elementary test (either Reading, Math, Science, or Social Studies) can complete a **professional learning module** in lieu of retaking the entire Praxis II test

When did this become available?

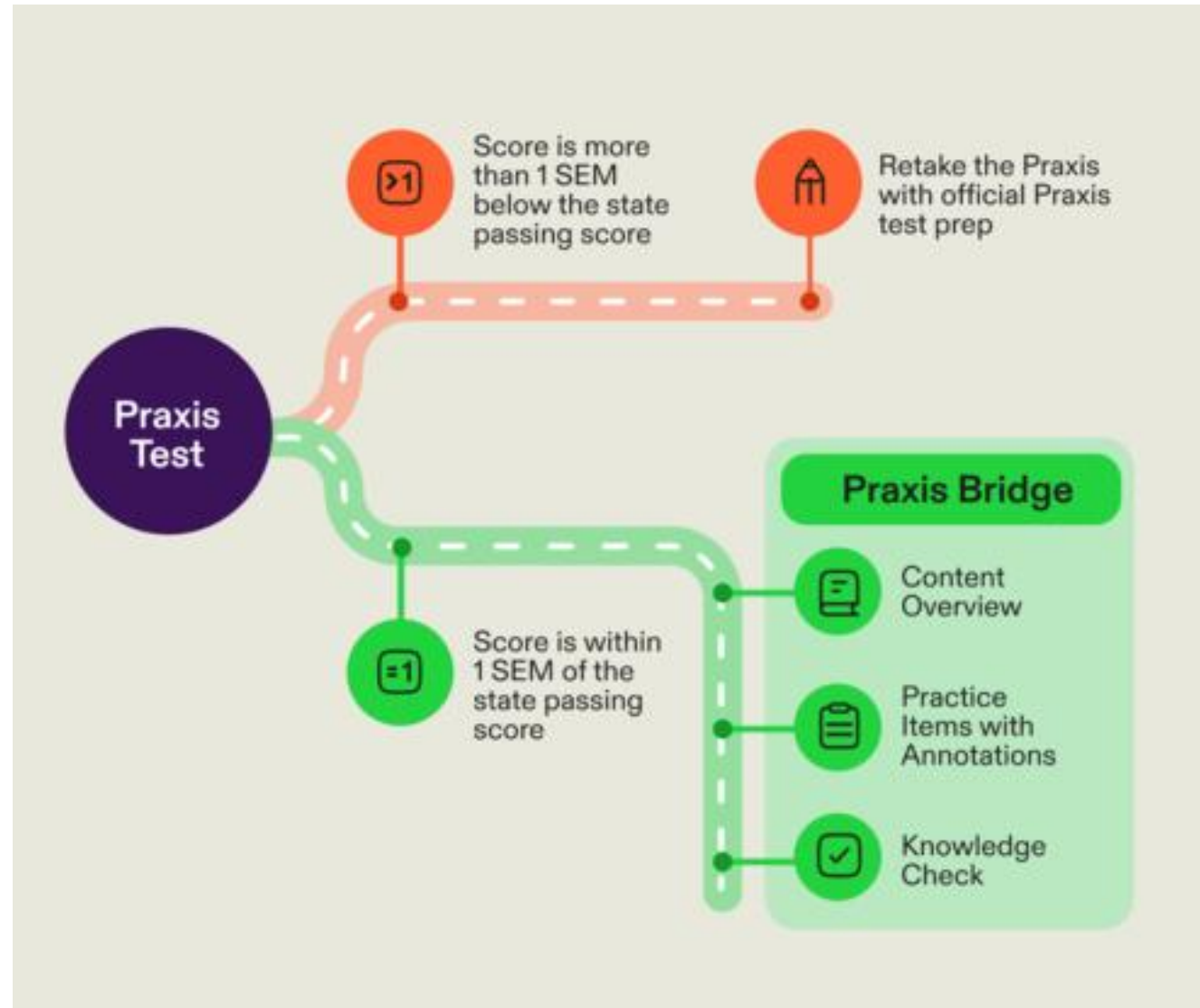
- November 1, 2024
- Individuals tested prior to November 1 were notified about Praxis Bridge in February

Is there a cost?

- No. Connecticut offers two free retests for eligible candidates that can be used for either a full test retake or Praxis II Bridge.

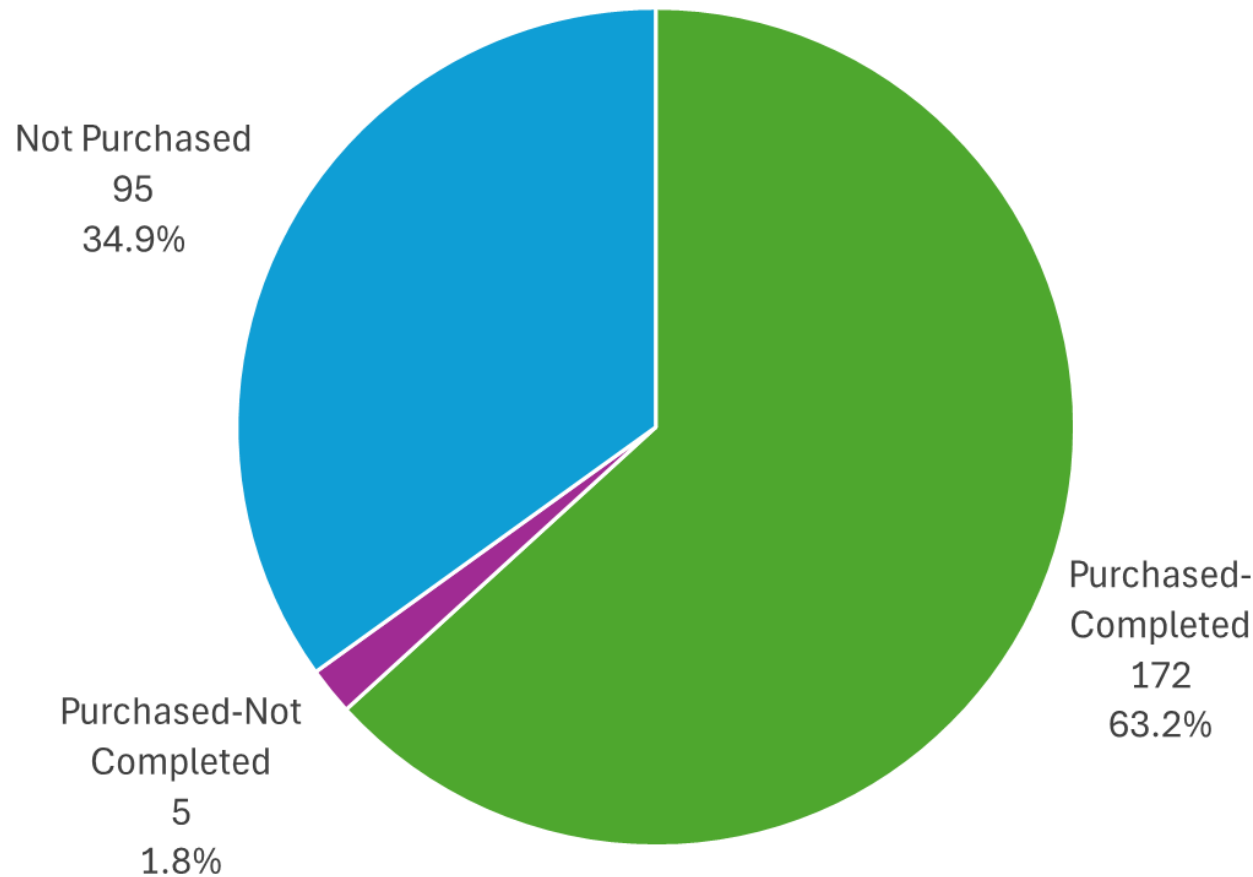


How Praxis Bridge Works





Praxis Bridge Completion After 11/1/2024



- Approximately 38-40% of all tests with failing scores fell within 1 SEM of the passing score. The exact percentages vary by test.
- Since 11/1/2024, 177 of the 272 eligible tests (or 65%) have been accessed through Praxis Bridge and almost all (172) have been successfully completed.
- Retroactive eligibility to Praxis Bridge for tests administered prior to November 1 was introduced in February 2025. An additional 306 tests have been accessed through Praxis Bridge and 174 of those have been successfully completed.



Awareness Efforts

- **Resources**
 - Email communication
 - Informational flyer
 - Institutions and Test Taker websites
 - Institutions and Test Taker FAQs
-
- **Social Media**
 - Monthly LinkedIn posts
-
- **Blog article**
 - [Pilot Results are in: Unlocking Potential Through Praxis Bridge](#)



ETS Praxis
2,083 followers
1w •

This powerful testimony from a Praxis Bridge pilot participant highlights what makes this program special.

The pilot program revealed that:

- 12% of candidates qualified for this alternate option, allowing these near-miss candidates a quick and low-cost alternative to retaking the entire test
- 89% of participants completed their targeted learning modules within 90 days—accelerating their journey to the classroom while ensuring they master essential content knowledge.

By focusing on specific areas of need rather than requiring full exam retakes, Praxis Bridge maintains high standards while reducing costs, stress, and time-to-certification for promising educators.

Click here for more Praxis Bridge pilot findings: <https://bit.ly/4iXZDkU>

#LoveOfLearning #TeacherSupport #Praxis

“

I have test anxiety, and this approach made all the difference. I could finally show what I know without the stress of a full retake.

Learn how
Praxis Bridge
helps test takers



Breaking the Teacher Shortage Cycle: Praxis Unveils Multi-Faceted Solutions for Partners

From flexible testing options and targeted prep resources to international teacher recruitment, discover how Praxis can support staffing challenges while maintaining high educational standards.

[Read more](#)



Praxis Bridge
Closing the gap
between potential
and performance

Praxis Bridge is Available Nationwide!

Learn how this innovative program helps near-miss candidates achieve success through targeted learning modules rather than full test retakes, and discover how your state can implement this streamlined alternative to accelerate readiness.

[Read the full announcement](#)



Email Communication

Current state

- Test takers receive an awareness email 5 days before they test letting them know Praxis Bridge is available for their test title.
- Eligible Bridge candidates receive
 - Eligibility notification with score reports
 - Monthly reminder to take advantage of Bridge (until they register for either a retest or Bridge)

Future state: Current +

- Eligible test takers will receive 2 additional emails encouraging them to purchase Praxis Bridge
- Bridge participants will receive 2 emails encouraging them to complete Praxis Bridge
- Completers will receive 1 congratulations email



We want you to feel prepared for every step of your educator journey.

If your Praxis test score is just shy of the passing mark, you might be eligible for **Praxis Bridge**, a new program now available in your state.

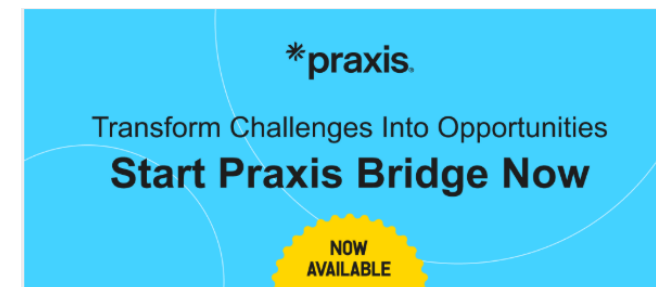
Praxis Bridge gives you the option to complete a professional development module **instead of retaking the full Praxis test**. This alternate path helps you keep moving forward without starting over.

What makes you eligible:

- You took a test currently offered for Praxis Bridge
- Your score is within 1 SEM of the state passing score as defined by the state licensure agency.
- You're pursuing licensure in a state that has adopted the program (like yours!)

If your score qualifies, you will be notified when you receive your official Praxis score report and can purchase the module directly through your Praxis account.

Want to learn more?



Keep moving forward—Praxis Bridge is here to help.

Instead of retaking the entire Praxis exam, you're eligible to take a professional development module that targets your specific areas for growth.

Here's what test takers are saying about how Praxis Bridge impacted their journey:

"I was only a few points away from passing. This allowed me to focus on exactly what I needed instead of starting over."






"I have test anxiety, and this approach made all the difference. I could finally show what I know without the stress of a full retake."

This low-cost option helps you strengthen your content knowledge, earn a passing score, and stay on track to the classroom.

Get started



Webinar: ETS - Praxis Data Manager (EDM) Brief Tutorial Webinar (Praxis Bridge)

-  Date: Monday, June 23rd, 2025
-  Time: 2:00-3:00PM
-  Location: Online (link provided upon registration)
-  Duration: 1 hour
-  Recording: Available 48 hours after the session
- What You'll Learn:
 - An introduction to the ETS Data Manager and how to use it effectively
 - How to identify candidates eligible for Praxis Bridge
 - Best practices for using data to support near-miss candidates
 - How Praxis Bridge can help accelerate certification and reduce barriers
- This session is a great opportunity to explore how the Praxis Program's solutions and tools can enhance your support for teacher candidates and streamline the path to licensure.
- Who Should Attend:
 - All faculty and staff involved in teacher preparation programs across Connecticut are encouraged to attend. Please feel free to share this invitation with your colleagues.
- Register Here <https://ets.zoom.us/meeting/register/rGWpX5ogQoCcL1VfAw3UCg>



Praxis Bridge – Additional Titles for CT

Test Title	Targeted Deployment
Special Education: Foundational (5355)	Summer 2025
Mathematics (5165)	Fall 2025
Social Studies (5581) – NEW TITLE	
Middle School Mathematics (5164)	
Middle School ELA (5047)	
Middle School Science (5442)	
ParaPathways (5758/5759) - NEW TITLE	

Note: Praxis I (CORE) tests started providing Praxis Bridge in April 2025.

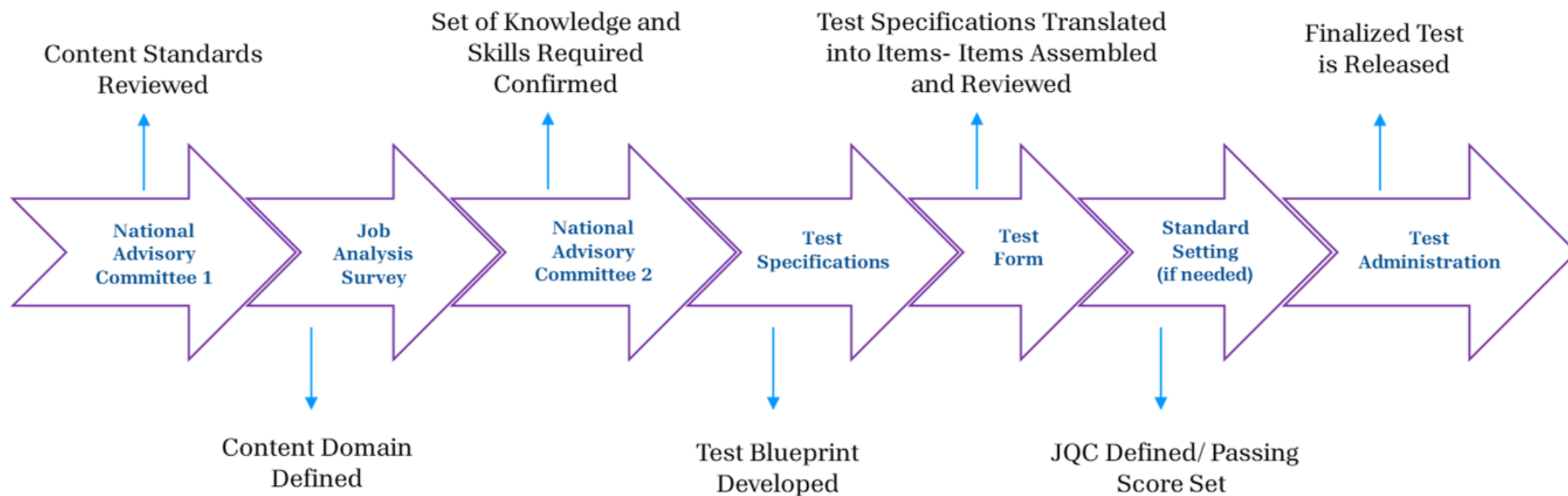
An illustration of a doorway on the left side of the slide. The doorway is open, revealing a classroom interior with a desk, a chair, and a chalkboard. The background of the slide is a dark blue space with white stars and a small blue planet with a ring. The text "A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the top of the slide.

A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES

Understanding the Standard Error of Measurement



Praxis Test Development Process



The test, its blueprint/design and the definition of this “just qualified candidate” is developed *by professionals, for professionals*. Simply put, the professional standards and contemporary professional practices expected of teachers as defined by professionals in the field drives the entire content of the test and the identification of a recommended passing score.

National Advisory Committees are typically comprised of 12-15 participants per committee, with 60% practicing teachers, 20% teacher educators, and 20% state representatives.



Establishing the Minimum Passing Score Standard Setting

- To determine the recommended minimum passing scores for all Praxis II tests, ETS conducts multi-state standard-setting activities using psychometrically recognized procedures.
- **The recommended minimum passing scores differentiate the “just-qualified” candidate from the “not-quite qualified” candidate in each subject area.**



Minimum Passing Score for Elementary Education Subtests

Test	Passing Score (i.e., Scale Score)	Approx # of Raw Score Points Needed at Passing Score*
Reading and Language Arts	157	Approx. 42 out of 65
Mathematics	157	Approx. 26 out of 40
Science	159	Approx. 33 out of 50
Social Studies	155	Approx. 35 out of 55

- The passing scores serve as a minimum baseline threshold of content knowledge for the “just-qualified” candidate.
- They do *not* represent aspirational levels of performance, or expect candidates to possess high levels of advanced knowledge in the content area.

*The raw score points are based on the actual test forms used during standard setting. The exact number of raw score points needed to reach the passing scale score may vary slightly from one form to another when forms are psychometrically equated to adjust for slight variations between them.



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**How confident are we (and do we want to be)
in determining that a candidate's one-time
test score did not meet the adopted passing
score and the standard-setting
recommendation?**

Bihua Xiang, Director, Psychometric & Data Analysis, ETS



Test Reliability

- Reliability is the extent to which the test is expected to yield similar scores if the test were taken repeatedly by the same person.
- The reliability of a test can be computed using psychometric procedures.
- This reliability is directly related to the “Standard Error of Measurement” (SEM).
- Greater the reliability, lower the SEM.

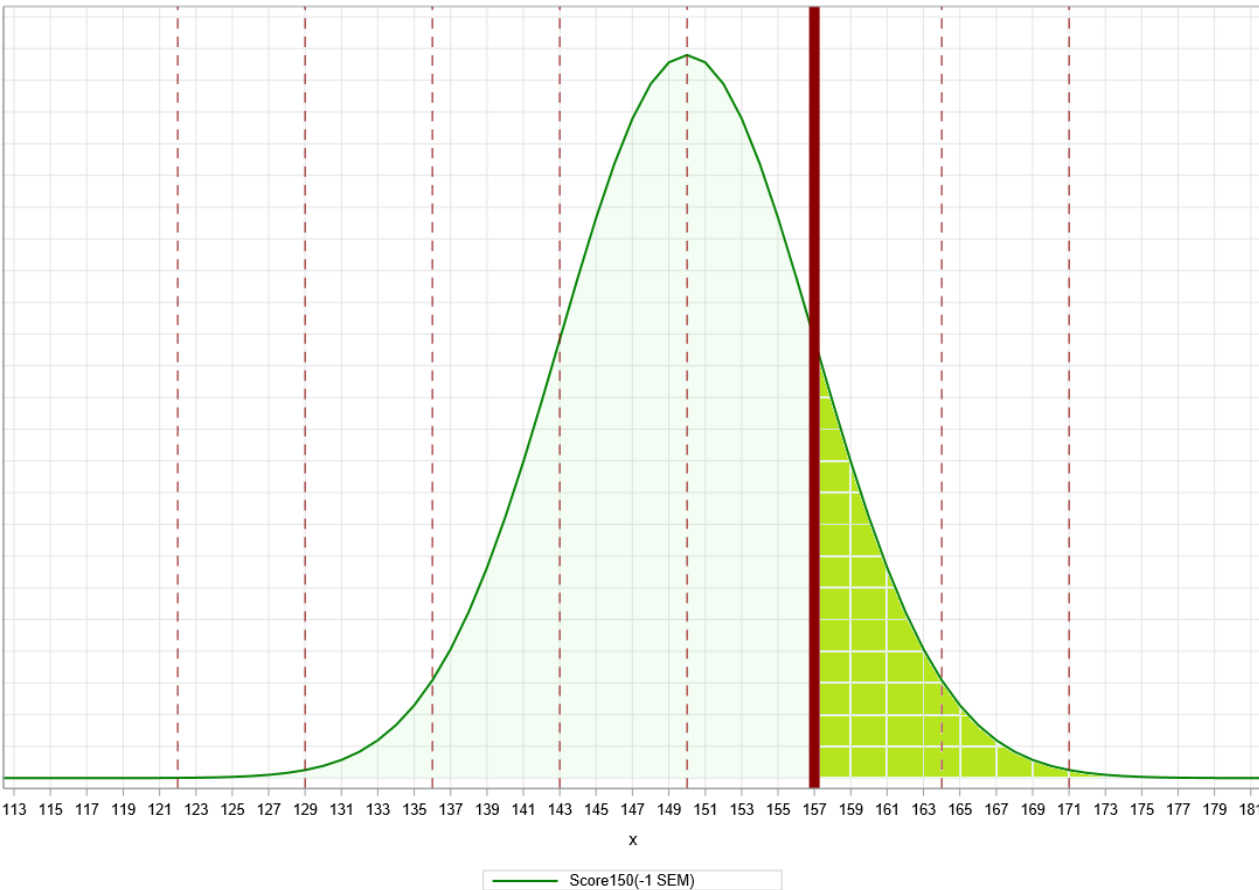


Standard Error of Measurement

- An individual's test score and the SEM help to establish a “confidence interval” around that test score.
- The confidence interval illustrates the score range within which a student would be estimated to score if they were to take the test multiple times with a fresh mind.



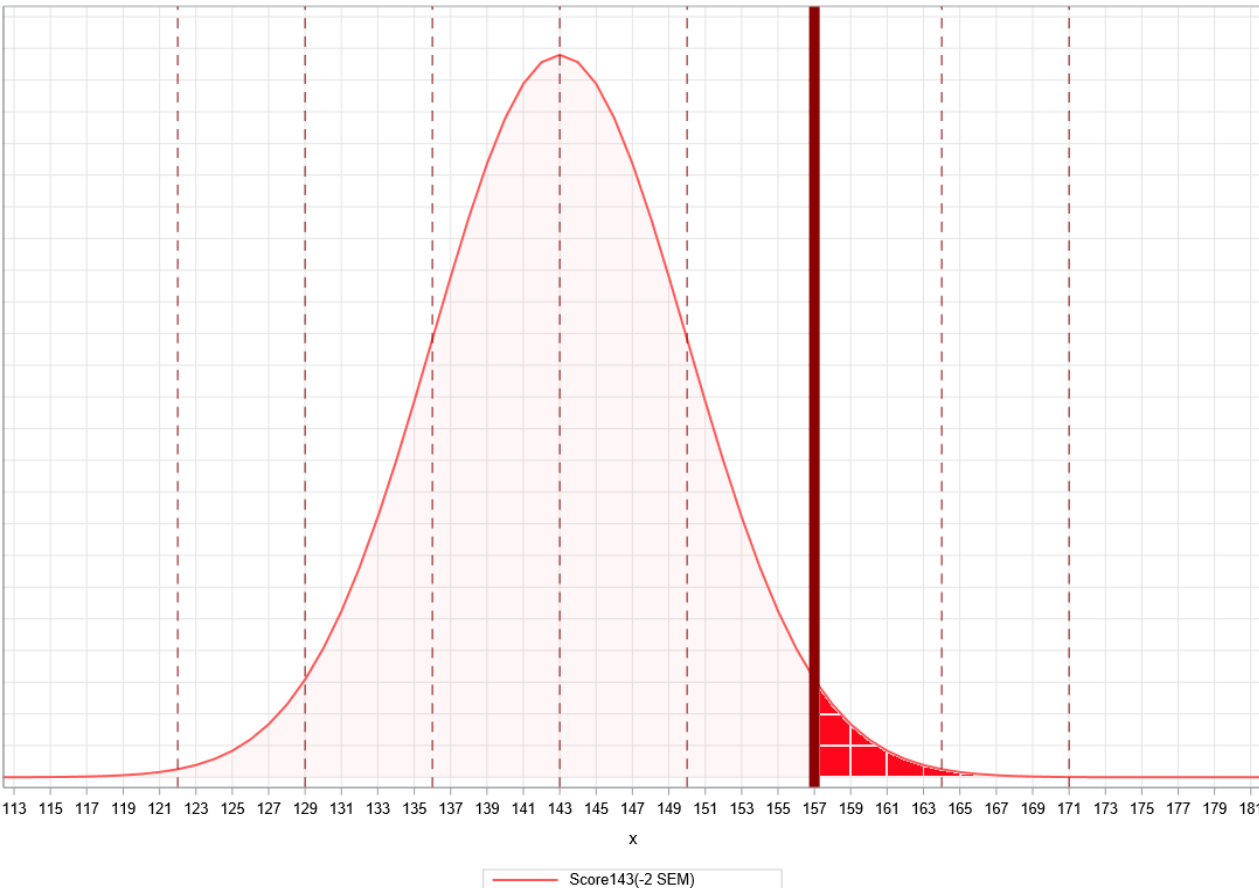
Candidates Scoring 1 SEM Lower than the Passing Score



- The green highlighted area (area at and above the passing score) represents 16% of the distribution.
- We are 84% confident that those scoring 1 SEM below the passing score will fail the test if they take it again. In other words, they have a 16% chance of passing if they test again.
- In discussions with ETS, it was determined that candidates within the 1 SEM threshold were close to passing and, given differing circumstances or forms, could pass on another attempt.
- So, Praxis Bridge is offered as targeted professional learning, with knowledge checks. Completion of Praxis Bridge constitutes passage and demonstration of content area mastery.



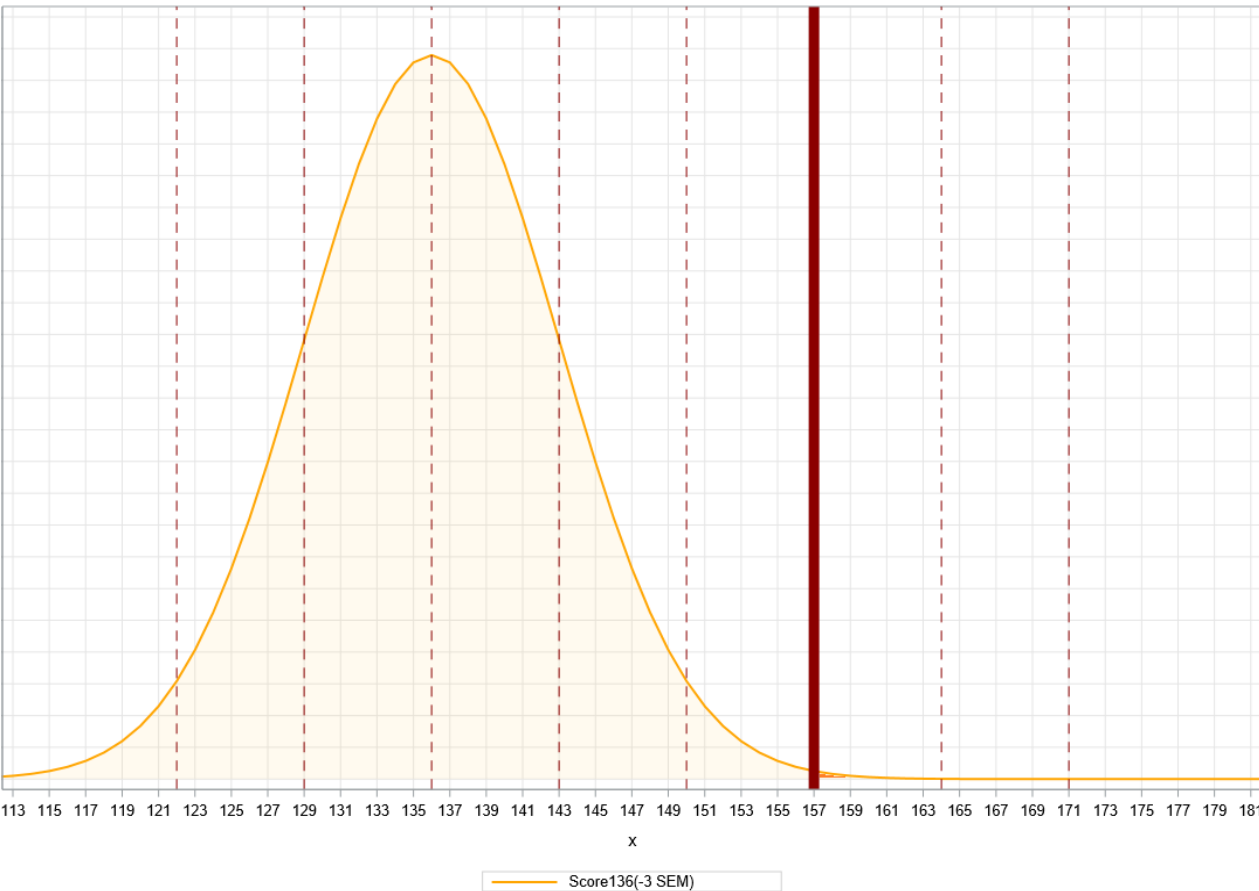
Candidates Scoring 2 SEM Lower than the Passing Score



- The red highlighted area (area at and above the passing score) represents 2.5% of the distribution.
- We are 97.5% confident that those scoring 2 SEM below the passing score will fail the test if they take it again. In other words, they only have a 2.5% chance of passing if they test again.
- These candidates likely need more test preparation or learning to ensure they understand the content.
- Accepting candidates within this threshold will likely admit individuals without the requisite content knowledge into the teaching profession.



Candidates Scoring 3 SEM Lower than the Passing Score



- The orange highlighted area (area at and above the passing score) represents only 0.15% of the distribution.
- We are 99.85% confident that those scoring 3 SEM below the passing score will fail the test if they take it again. In other words, they only have a 0.15% chance of passing if they test again.
- These candidates likely need significantly more preparation and learning to ensure they understand the content.
- Accepting candidates within this threshold will very likely admit individuals without the requisite content knowledge into the teaching profession.



SEM Threshold and Multiple Measures

When Praxis is Used:

- Candidates who score within 1 SEM below the passing threshold are eligible for Praxis Bridge. This approach balances theoretical and policy considerations, acknowledging that these individuals have a meaningful chance (approximately 16%) of achieving the just-qualified passing score, given the realities of measurement precision and imprecision.
- Candidates scoring more than 1 SEM below the passing score (e.g., 2 or 3 SEM below) should be interpreted as having negligible or no probability of reaching the just-qualified passing score.

Alternative Approaches to Content Knowledge Demonstration:

- Any alternative methods for assessing content area expertise—such as GPA in approved EPP courses—must establish their own robust evidence base to ensure validity and reliability.



Summary

- Praxis Bridge is working! Approximately 38-40% of all failing tests are eligible for Praxis Bridge. 172 tests or nearly two-thirds of all eligible tests taken since November 1, 2024 have completed Praxis Bridge to pass the test. Another 174 tests have also been completed since February for candidate tests taken prior to November 1, 2024.
- Feedback from candidates taking Praxis Bridge is overwhelmingly positive.
- CSDE and ETS are implementing strategic communication strategies to increase participation and completion of Praxis Bridge.
- Teachers, teacher educators, and state representatives are involved in critical aspects of Praxis test development, including standard setting.



Summary (continued)

- The Praxis II passing score serves as a minimum baseline threshold of content knowledge for the “just-qualified” candidate. They do not represent aspirational levels of performance, and do not expect advanced knowledge in the content area.
- The -1 SEM threshold allows candidates who are close to passing to receive targeted professional learning, and along with their test score, confirm their content knowledge through this approach.
- Candidates scoring lower than -1 SEM (e.g., -2 and -3 SEM) very likely require significant preparation and learning to ensure they can achieve minimum content knowledge similar to the “just qualified” candidate.
- Accepting candidates below the -1 SEM threshold will very likely admit individuals without the requisite content knowledge into the teaching profession.



Summary (continued)

- Scores below 1 SEM on the Praxis (e.g., 2 or 3 SEM below) are not supported as valid evidence for a policy decision that can allow non-passers to access other approaches to content area knowledge demonstration.
- Any alternative approaches to content area knowledge demonstration that do not require passage of Praxis II (e.g., GPA in Approved EPP Content Area Courses) will need to develop their own robust evidence base.