

August 13, 2008

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS
FOR VIRGINIA LICENSURE AND
THE SCHOOL LEADERS LICENSURE ASSESSMENT FOR PRINCIPALS**

Introduction

Applicants requesting initial teaching licensure are required to achieve passing scores on professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Board of Education **unless** exempted based on three years of full-time successful teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school in a state other than Virginia and a valid out-of-state license (full credential with no deficiencies) as described below under the topic, "Exemption Criteria." Applicants seeking the Technical Professional License, Pupil Personnel Services License, International License, and School Manager License are not required to complete the professional teacher's assessment. If an individual becomes employed by a **Virginia school division or accredited nonpublic school** in a contractual teaching position, has met the endorsement (teaching area) requirements, and has not satisfied the professional teacher's assessments, a **three-year, nonrenewable** provisional license may be issued upon the request of the Virginia employing educational agency.

Exemption Criteria

Individuals who hold a valid out-of-state license (full credential with no deficiencies) and who have completed a minimum of three years of full-time, successful teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school (kindergarten through grade 12) in a state other than Virginia are exempted from the professional teacher's assessment requirements (VCLA, Praxis II, and the VRA). Experience as a substitute teacher or as a teacher's aide is not acceptable experience to meet this exemption.

[Please note that the valid out-of-state license (full credential with no deficiencies) and the documented teaching experience must be submitted with the application for the license.]

Assessments Required

The prescribed tests for Virginia for initial licensure are as follows:

1. ACADEMIC SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment-VCLA (effective since January 1, 2006)

2. CONTENT ASSESSMENT

Praxis II - (if applicable) – Refer to next pages for the listing of required Praxis II assessments.

3. VIRGINIA READING ASSESSMENT, if applicable.

This test is required for individuals seeking an endorsement as a reading specialist or individuals seeking initial licensure with endorsements in any of the following endorsements (teaching areas): Early/Primary preK-3, Elementary Education preK-6, Special Education-General

Curriculum, Special Education-Hearing Impairments, and Special Education-Visual Impairments. [This assessment also may apply to those individuals with endorsements in Special Education-Emotional Disturbances, Special Education-Specific Learning Disabilities, and Special Education-Mental Retardation who were advised under previous regulations to meet this assessment requirement for full licensure.]

VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT
(effective January 1, 2006)

The **Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment** became effective January 1, 2006, for initial licensure unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. Refer to the following Web site for more information about the test content, test dates, costs, accommodations for individuals with disabilities, and registration: www.va.nesinc.com.

On March 22, 2006, the Board of Education approved cut scores for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). The cut scores for the VCLA are as follows:

Writing Sub Test: 235
 Reading Sub Test: 235
Composite Score: 470

PRAXIS II: SPECIALTY AREA TESTS

The following tests are required for the following endorsement (teaching specialty) areas for initial licensure unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. Individuals are required to satisfy the Specialty Area test(s) requirement for only one endorsement area, but it must match an endorsement area in which initial licensure is ranted. For information regarding registration, test administration, fees, the policy for testing individuals with disabilities, etc., please refer to the Web site, www.ets.org, or contact the Educational Testing Service (ETS) at 1-800-772-9476 or 609-771-7395 for THE PRAXIS SERIES Registration Bulletin or write to THE PRAXIS SERIES, ETS, P.O. Box 6051, Princeton, NJ 08541-6051. Hearing impaired individuals using a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may call 1-800-275-1391 for information.

SPECIALTY AREA	TEST TEST CODE	PASSING SCORES	ENDORSEMENT AREA
Art: Content Knowledge	(0133)	159	Visual Arts
Biology: Content Knowledge	(0235)	155	Biology
Business Education	(0100)	590	Business & InformationTechnology
Chemistry: Content Knowledge	(0245)	153	Chemistry
Earth Science: Content Knowledge	(0571)	156	Earth Science
Elementary Education: Content Knowledge	(0014)	143	PreK-3; PreK-6
English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge	(0041)	172	English
French: Content Knowledge	(0173)	169	French
German: Content Knowledge	(0181)	162	German
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken before 9/2008)*	(0120)	550	Family and Consumer Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences			

(taken after 9/2008)	(0121)	150	Family and Consumer Sciences
Health and Physical Education			
PreK-12	(0856)	151	Health and Physical Education
Marketing Education			
(taken before 9/2008)*	(0560)	570	Marketing Education
Marketing Education			
(taken after 9/2008)	(0561)	147	Marketing Education
Mathematics: Content Knowledge	(0061)	147	Mathematics
Middle School English/Language Arts	(0049)	164	Middle Education English
Middle School Mathematics	(0069)	163	Middle Education Mathematics
Middle School Science	(0439)	162	Middle School Science
Middle School Social Studies	(0089)	160	Middle School Social Studies
Music: Content Knowledge	(0113)	160	Music-Vocal/Choral or Instrumental
Physics: Content Knowledge	(0265)	147	Physics
Social Studies: Content Knowledge	(0081)	161	History and Social Sciences
Spanish: Content Knowledge	(0191)	161	Spanish
Technology Education	(0050)	610	Technology Education

***Please note that the test codes changed for the Family and Consumer Sciences and Marketing Education tests effective September 1, 2008. The test scores will be reported on a different scale, so please note the change in the passing scores.**

VIRGINIA READING ASSESSMENT (VRA)

Individuals seeking initial licensure with endorsements in the following areas must take the Virginia Reading Assessment for Elementary and Special Education Teachers (Test Code 001) unless the exemption criteria are met:

- Early/Primary prek-3**
- Elementary Education prek-6**
- Special Education-General Curriculum**
- Special Education-Hearing Impairments**
- Special Education-Visual Impairments**

Note: This assessment also may apply to those individuals with endorsements in Special Education-Emotional Disturbances, Special Education-Specific Learning Disabilities, and Special Education-Mental Retardation who were advised under previous regulations to meet this assessment requirement for full licensure.

Individuals seeking an endorsement as a **Reading Specialist** must take the Virginia Reading Assessment for Reading Specialists (Test Code 002).

The VRA became a requirement July 1, 2004. Individuals who take the VRA after July 1, 2006, will be required to meet a passing score established by the Virginia Board of Education. The Board of Education established cut scores for the Virginia Reading Assessments for elementary and special education teachers at 235 and for reading specialists at 245, effective July 1, 2006. For information regarding registration, test administration, fees, etc., please visit the Web site, www.va.nesinc.com.