**VSBPE**

**Date: 12 January 2022**

**Item:** **Revision of basic academic competency expectations for initial licensure**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBPE amend their rules to offer a broader range of options for educators to demonstrate basic academic competency?

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the VSBPE amend their rules to offer a broader range of options for educators to demonstrate basic academic competency.

**BACKGROUND:** The VSBPE rules require educators seeking teaching and/or administrator licenses to have a passing score on the Praxis Core. A few other standardized assessments can be used in place of the Praxis Core. There is also a process to be granted a waiver from the Praxis Core. However, all of these ways of demonstrating basic academic competencies are based on performance on standardized tests.

**RATIONALE:** Consistent with performance measures of student competency, these proposed rule changes would allow candidates to demonstrate basic competencies through existing means, as well as through demonstration of competency through coursework. Additionally, Vermont already accepts other state demonstrations of academic competencies *de facto* through reciprocity. Allowing these assessments to be used for initial licensure is a logical extension.

**DOCUMENTATION:** Proposed amended rules

**NOTE:** If the Standards Board accepts these rule changes, the Office will make additional technical corrections to the rules to bring back to the board for approval. Additionally, the Office will bring a complete policy to the board regarding accepted assessments for demonstration of basic competencies to the March meeting for a first reading.

**Proposed Rule Changes:**

5241 Praxis Core examination and alternate measures of demonstration of basic skills

5241.1 Except as otherwise provided by Rule 5246, all applicants for initial licensure under sections 5310, 5320, 5330, or 5340 of these rules shall be required to meet the passing scores established by the Standards Board on the Praxis Core Series examinations in reading, writing, and mathematics or other examinations or measures determined by the Standards Board.

5241.2 Other examinations and measures for determining core skills beyond the Praxis Core series include:

1. Equivalent score on approved alternate assessment as defined in Policy XX
2. Passing score on assessment of basic skills approved for educator licensure in any other US state.
3. Demonstration of competence in basic skills aligned with the Praxis Core through coursework that appears for credit on an official transcript and for which the applicant received a grade of “B” or better

5247 Waiver of Praxis Core Series Requirement

5247.1 A superintendent, director, head of an approved independent school, Career Technical Director, or may apply for the waiver on behalf of the educator.

5247.2 The school district would need to demonstrate that not being given a waiver would substantially inhibit the district’s ability to carry out its locally established objectives.

5247.3 The prospective teacher on whose behalf the waiver is being requested must document that the individual:

1. has undertaken additional efforts to acquire knowledge and skills necessary such as tutoring and courses;
2. has exhausted all ETS procedures for accommodations for a disability if the educators has an identified and documented disability; and
3. has taken the exam a minimum of two times without being able to meet the required cut scores.

5247.4 If a - c are met and the VSBPE or the Office finds that the candidate is otherwise qualified, the Education Quality Division’s Licensing Office will issue a license that is restricted to teaching in the Supervisory Union/District making the waiver request. will allow the educator to seek licensure without meeting Praxis Core requirements.

5247.5 An Education Preparation Program can request a waiver on behalf of a candidate, if the EPP attests that the candidate has demonstrated the basic skills and competencies to be a licensed educator in the State of Vermont and documents that the educator:

1. has been supported by the requesting EPP with documented additional efforts to acquire knowledge and skills necessary, such as tutoring or coursework, and how the educator has demonstrated competency in basic skills through these efforts;
2. has exhausted all ETS procedures for accommodations for a disability if the educators has an identified and documented disability; and
3. has taken the exam a minimum of two times without being able to meet the required cut scores.

5247.4 If a - c are met and the VSBPE or the Office finds that the candidate is otherwise qualified, the Education Quality Division’s Licensing Office will issue a license allowing the educator to seek licensure without meeting Praxis Core requirements.

**Policy F3**

**Assessments Considered as Demonstration of Basic Competency**

The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators recognizes meeting cut scores on any of the following assessments as demonstration of basic competency required for education licensure.  Cut scores for specific assessments are reviewed annually and published online at [www.education.vermont.gov](http://www.education.vermont.gov).

1. Praxis Core
2. SAT
3. ACT
4. GRE
5. ASVAB