

## Teacher Candidate Basic Skills Requirement

Regulations adopted by the State Board of Education on June 4, 2014 include a basic skills requirement for teacher preparation program entry and teacher certification.

### As of September 1, 2015:

- **Candidates starting a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) educator preparation program** (formerly known as “traditional route”) **must meet the basic skills requirement prior to starting coursework** in a program.
- **Candidates seeking an initial Certificate of Eligibility (CE)** (formerly known as “alternate route”) **must meet the basic skills requirement prior to being issued a CE**, except:
  - Candidates applying for a CE with a career and technical education (CTE) endorsement – other than business-related or family and consumer science endorsements – have until the application for a standard certificate to meet the basic skills requirement.

### Two Ways to Meet the Basic Skills Requirement:

1. **Pass a Commissioner-approved assessment of basic skills.** Currently, the only approved assessment<sup>1</sup> is the [Praxis Core Academic Skills](#) with passing scores as follows: Reading: 156, Math: 150, Writing: 162.
2. **Demonstrate a score on the SAT, ACT, or GRE at or above the cut score for the year in which the exam was taken** (*see cut scores below*). The following conditions apply:
  - A CEAS educator preparation program may determine the evidence required to demonstrate a candidate’s score on an exam.
  - CE candidates are responsible for ensuring official test scores are sent to the New Jersey Department of Education by providing the score report in a sealed, stamped envelope from the testing agency or having the score report sent directly from the testing agency.
  - The New Jersey Department of Education will accept the highest score on each test section, regardless of test date.

### Cut scores to meet basic skills requirement (SAT, ACT, GRE)<sup>2</sup>

	SAT			ACT			GRE	
	Verbal	Math		English	Math		Verbal	Quantitative
If taken before 4/1/1995	480	520	If taken before 8/28/1989	20	23	If taken before 8/1/2011	530	720
If taken on or after 4/1/1995 <sup>3</sup>	560	540	If taken on or after 8/28/1989	23	23	If taken on or after 8/1/2011	155	156

### For More Information

- Visit the [Educator Preparation web page](#).
- To view answers to frequently asked questions, see [http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/faq\\_rpr.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/faq_rpr.shtml).
- To share questions or comments, please email [rpr@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:rpr@doe.state.nj.us).

1. If a candidate completed and passed the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST / Praxis I) prior to June 2014, the Department will accept passing scores on those exams to satisfy the basic skills requirement (passing scores on the PPST are as follows: Reading: 175, Math: 174, Writing: 173).
2. Regulations allow candidates who achieved a score on the SAT, ACT or GRE that was “approximately equal to the top-third percentile score for all test takers in the year the respective test was taken” to be exempt from taking the Praxis Core; these cut scores represent that approximate “top-third percentile score.”
3. Note that the SAT will change in spring of 2016. At that time, the Department will update guidance on acceptable cut scores.