



Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner

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**Enclosure 9a**  
**February 10, 2013**

**TO:** Members of the RI Board of Education

**FROM:** Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 

**RE:** Educator Certification Test Updates

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The Regents Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island requires RIDE to seek Board approval to adopt new or revised certification tests and passing scores that are required for initial certification. Educational Testing Service (ETS) provides most RI certification tests and has revised six tests to ensure currency with the field. Rhode Island educators participated in some of the validation studies for the revised tests and RIDE staff has reviewed the standard setting process.

**RECOMMENDATION: THAT,** the Rhode Island Board of Education approves, for the purpose of public review and comment, the proposed revised Educator Certification Tests and passing scores, as presented.



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## Recommendations for Educator Certification Test Updates

### Revised Certification Tests:

Current Test	Revised Test	Recommended Passing Score
Middle School English Language Arts (0049/5049)	Middle School English Language Arts (5047)	164
Middle School Mathematics (0069/5069)	Middle School Mathematics (5169)	165
English Language, Literature, Composition: Content and Analysis (0044/5044)	English Language Arts Content and Analysis (5039)	168
Mathematics: Content Knowledge (0061/5061)	Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161)	160
School Psychologist (0401)	School Psychologist (5402)	147
Agriculture (0700)	Agriculture (5701)	147

- Based on changes in standards and the field, ETS regularly revises assessments used by states for the purpose of certification. RIDE reaches out to RI educators to participate in standard setting studies. Rhode Island educators participated in the standard setting study panels for all tests except the Middle School Mathematics and School Psychologists assessments. Panelists participate in a two day process to determine appropriate test content and to recommend a passing score that would reflect knowledge and skills necessary for competent professional practice of an entry level professional. Panelists agreed that the revised tests were valid and appropriate measures of the requisite content knowledge for initial licensure.
- Based on the process followed during the previous approval of new or revised certification tests, RIDE recommends that the Board adopt the validation study panel recommended scores as the required passing scores for initial licensure in Rhode Island.