



Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 3b  
April 10, 2014

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TO: Members of the R.I. Board of Education

FROM: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 

RE: Approval of 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 required for initial licensure. Educational Testing Service (ETS) provides most RI licensure tests and has revised six tests to ensure currency with the field. Rhode Island educators participated in validation studies for the revised tests. RIDE staff has reviewed the standard setting process and the public comment received.

The six regenerated tests and the recommended passing scores are provided in the attached chart.

**RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Education approves these regenerated tests, with the recommended passing scores, as presented.**



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## Public Comment Summary

RIDE requested permission from the Board of Education to seek public comment on the tests identified below. Public comment opened on February 12, 2014 and closed on March 12, 2014. There were four comments received. A summary of public comment is provided in the chart.

Test	Comment
<b>Middle School English Language Arts (5047)</b> <i>Passing Score 164</i>	1 Comment  The individual suggested reviewing the cut scores for all foreign language tests because the district has a difficult time finding quality teachers in this area. S/he added that there should be other ways for <i>determining</i> the quality of preparation programs and that a standardized test alone shouldn't determine certification in the state.
<b>Middle School Mathematics (5169)</b> <i>Passing Score 165</i>	No Comment
<b>English Language Arts Content Analysis (5039)</b> <i>Passing Score 168</i>	1 Comment  The assessment focuses on what is memorized in class, not how well a teacher teaches.
<b>Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161)</b> <i>Passing Score 160</i>	2 comments  The cut score should not be lower than 160.  Elementary teachers should not be tested on high school math algorithms. The results of this test do not prove whether or not a teacher can teach a process. We should be concentrating on how teachers teach, not what they remember from high school math and may never use again.
<b>School Psychologist (5402)</b> <i>Passing Score 147</i>	No Comment
<b>Agriculture (5701)</b> <i>Passing Score 147</i>	No Comment