



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 3c  
April 10, 2014

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

FROM: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 

RE: Educator Certification Test Updates - **Request for Public Review and Comment**

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The Board of 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 licensure.

Educational Testing Service (ETS) provides most R.I. licensure tests and has revised two tests to ensure currency with the field. Rhode Island educators participated in one 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 certification tests and passing scores, as presented.**



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### Recommendations for Certification Test Updates

#### Revised Certification Tests:

Current Test	Revised Test	Recommended Passing Score
Speech-Language Pathologist (0330/5330)	Speech-Language Pathologist (5331)	162
Middle School Science (0439)	Middle School Science (5440)	150

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. 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.

RIDE recommends that the Board adopt the validation study panel recommended scores as the required passing scores for initial licensure in Rhode Island.