

Assessment Requirements: Literacy, Early Childhood, Elementary Education, and Special Education Fields
South Carolina Certification Assessment Program

Effective September 1, 2026

- [Read to Succeed Literacy Teacher Endorsement](#)
- [Early Childhood Fields](#)
- [Elementary Education Fields](#)
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Statutory Requirements

- The Read to Succeed Act, as amended in 2024, requires candidates seeking initial certification in Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education fields to earn a passing score on a rigorous test of reading instruction beginning September 1, 2026. This same requirement will apply to educators seeking to add one of these fields to an existing certificate.
- The assessment adopted for initial certification purposes must be available as an option for those in-service teachers who must earn the Read to Succeed (R2S) Literacy Teacher endorsement.
- Pursuant to S.C. Ann. § 59-25-30, the State Board is authorized to adopt subject area and pedagogy (i.e., professional teaching knowledge) assessments and related passing scores for certification purposes.

Read to Succeed Literacy Teacher Endorsement

To earn the Read to Succeed Literacy Teacher endorsement by exam, an educator must earn the required score on an approved reading assessment as indicated in the table below.

Assessment Options for Adding the Read to Succeed (R2S) Literacy Teacher Endorsement by Exam

Praxis 5205
Teaching Reading Elementary
Passing Score for the Endorsement: 165
Passing Score for Initial Certification: 159

or

Pearson 890
Foundations of Reading
Passing Score for the Endorsement: 240
Passing Score for Initial Certification: 233

Early Childhood Fields

Early Childhood, Montessori Early Childhood, Montessori Elementary I

For initial certification in one of these Early Childhood fields, a candidate must earn a passing score on a subject area assessment in the content area, a subject area assessment in reading, and a pedagogy assessment. The assessment options in each category are listed in the table below.

Subject Area Assessment–Content	Subject Area Assessment–Reading	Pedagogy Assessment
Praxis 5534 Early Childhood Education: Foundational Knowledge and Content Passing Score: 163	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165	Praxis 5621 Principles of Learning & Teaching: Early Childhood Passing Score: 157
or	or	or
Praxis 5025 Early Childhood Education Passing Score: 156	Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240	Pearson edTPA Passing Score: Dependent on specific edTPA Handbook

Reading Assessment Requirement Information

- For initial certification, a candidate must earn the score indicated above on either Praxis 5205 or Pearson 890.
- A candidate earning the higher score on Praxis 5205 or Pearson 890 will also be issued the R2S Literacy Teacher endorsement at the time of initial certification.
- A candidate who does not earn the endorsement at the time of initial certification will be able to pursue endorsement options at the in-service level.
- Effective September 1, 2026, the SCDE will discontinue issuance of the endorsement based on completion of pre-service coursework alone.

Elementary Education Fields

Elementary, Montessori Elementary I, Montessori Elementary II

For initial certification in Elementary Education fields, a candidate must earn a passing score on each subject area subtest in mathematics, social studies, and science; a subject area assessment in reading; and a pedagogy assessment. The assessment options in each category are listed in the table below.

Important Notes Regarding Content Area Test Names and Codes

- Effective September 1, 2026, the Praxis 7811 series Content Knowledge for Teaching will no longer be available for South Carolina test-takers. Candidates who earned a passing score on a CKT subtest in mathematics, social studies, or science prior to this date will still be able to use that score for initial certification through August 31, 2031.
- Beginning September 1, 2026, candidates in an Elementary Education field will have the option of three testing series for the content area subtests in mathematics, social studies, and science:
 - the new Praxis 8001 series Elementary Education Fundamentals, or
 - the Praxis 5001 series Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects, or
 - the Praxis 5901 series Elementary Education.
- The Praxis 5901 series is identical to the Praxis 5001 that South Carolina currently accepts. Registration and pricing options vary, however.
 - Choosing the 5001 series option requires registering for individual subtests (5003, 5004, or 5005) at a cost of \$64 each.
 - Choosing the 5901 series allows candidates to register for a three-test bundle (5903, 5904, and 5905) at a cost of \$150—or to register for individual subtests at a cost of \$64 each.
- South Carolina will discontinue using the 5001 and 5901 series effective September 1, 2027. Candidates who have earned a passing score on one of these subtests in mathematics, social studies, or science prior to that date will be able to use the score for initial certification through August 31, 2032.

Subject Area Assessment–Content	Subject Area Assessment–Reading	Pedagogy Assessment
<i>Elementary Mathematics Subtest</i> Praxis 8003 Elementary Education Fundamentals: Mathematics Passing Score: 152 or Praxis 5003 Multiple Subjects: Mathematics Passing Score: 157 or Praxis 5903 Elementary Education: Mathematics Passing Score: 157	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165	Praxis 5622 Principles of Learning & Teaching: Grades K–6 Passing Score: 160
AND	OR	OR
<i>Elementary Social Studies Subtest</i> Praxis 8004 Elementary Education Fundamentals: Social Studies Passing Score: 147 or Praxis 5004 Multiple Subjects: Social Studies Passing Score: 155 or Praxis 5904 Elementary Education: Social Studies Passing Score: 155	Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240	Pearson edTPA Passing Score: Dependent on the specific edTPA handbook
AND		

Subject Area Assessment–Content	Subject Area Assessment–Reading	Pedagogy Assessment
<i>Elementary Science Subtest</i> Praxis 8005 Elementary Education Fundamentals: Science Passing Score: 143 or Praxis 5005 Multiple Subjects: Science Passing Score 159 or Praxis 5905 Elementary Education: Science Passing Score 159		

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Special Education Fields

Special Education: Early Childhood, Emotional Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Multi-categorical, Severe Disabilities, Hearing Impairments, Visual Impairments

For initial certification in Special Education fields, a candidate must earn a passing score on subject area subtest(s) in the specialty content area, a subject area assessment in reading, and a pedagogy assessment. The assessment options in each category are listed in the table below.

Subject Area Assessment–Content	Subject Area Assessment–Reading	Pedagogy Assessment
<i>Special Education: Early Childhood</i> Praxis 5692 Special Education: Early Childhood/Early Intervention Passing Score: 159	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165 or Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240	Praxis 5621 Principles of Learning & Teaching: Early Childhood Passing Score: 157 or edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test

Subject Area Assessment–Content	Subject Area Assessment–Reading	Pedagogy Assessment
<i>Special Education: Emotional Disabilities</i> <u>Test 1</u> Praxis 5355 Special Education Foundational Knowledge Passing Score: 145 and <u>Test 2</u> Praxis 5372 Special Education: Teaching Students with Behavioral Disorders/Emotional Disturbances Passing Score: 154	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165 or Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240	Praxis 5625 Principles of Learning & Teaching: PreK–12 Passing Score: 157 or edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test
<i>Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities</i> <u>Test 1</u> Praxis 5355 Special Education Foundational Knowledge Passing Score: 145 and <u>Test 2</u> Praxis 5322 Special Education: Teaching Students with Intellectual Disabilities Passing Score: 156	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165 or Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240	Praxis 5625 Principles of Learning & Teaching: PreK–12 Passing Score: 157 or edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test

Subject Area Assessment–Content	Subject Area Assessment–Reading	Pedagogy Assessment
<i>Special Education: Learning Disabilities</i> <u>Test 1</u> Praxis 5355 Special Education Foundational Knowledge Passing Score: 145 and <u>Test 2</u> Praxis 5383 Special Education: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities Passing Score: 151	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165 or Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240	Praxis 5625 Principles of Learning & Teaching: PreK–12 Passing Score: 157 or edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test
<i>Special Education: Multi-categorical</i> Praxis 5355 Special Education Foundational Knowledge Passing Score: 145	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165 or Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240	Praxis 5625 Principles of Learning & Teaching: PreK–12 Passing Score: 157 or edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test

Subject Area Assessment–Content	Subject Area Assessment–Reading	Pedagogy Assessment
<i>Special Education: Severe Disabilities</i> Praxis 5547 Special Education Severe to Profound Passing Score: 156	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165 or Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240	Praxis 5625 Principles of Learning & Teaching: PreK–12 Passing Score: 157 or edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test
<i>Special Education: Hearing Impairments</i> Praxis 5272 Special Education: Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students Passing Score: 160	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165 or Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240	Praxis 5625 Principles of Learning & Teaching: PreK–12 Passing Score: 157 or edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test
<i>Special Education: Visual Impairments</i> Praxis 5282 Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments Passing Score: 163	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165 or Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240	Praxis 5625 Principles of Learning & Teaching: PreK–12 Passing Score: 157 or edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test

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