

South Carolina Certification Assessment Program

Required Pedagogy (Professional Teaching Knowledge) Assessments

2026-27 Academic Year

This document lists pedagogy assessments approved by the State Board of Education for certification. Please read all information carefully before registering for an assessment.

Required Pedagogy Assessments for Certification in Classroom Teaching Fields

For issuance of a South Carolina educator certificate, and pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 59-26-30, candidates for teacher certification must earn a passing score on both a subject area assessment in the content area and an assessment of professional teaching knowledge (i.e., pedagogy).

The South Carolina State Board of Education has approved two options for meeting the pedagogy assessment requirement:

- the Praxis Principles of Teaching and Learning exams administered by ETS or
- the edTPA performance assessments administered through Pearson Evaluation Systems.

Exceptions

- Candidates seeking certification in instructional service fields (e.g., School Counselor, School Psychologist, School Librarian, and Speech-Language Pathologist) or in leadership fields (e.g., School Principal, Superintendent, CTE Center Director) are not required to take a pedagogy assessment.
- Certified South Carolina educators seeking to add another classroom teaching field to their certificate are not required to take an additional pedagogy assessment.

Standard Pedagogy Assessment: Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)

Most candidates seeking initial teacher certification in South Carolina will take the appropriate Praxis PLT to demonstrate knowledge of pedagogy. The PLT taken for certification must align with the grade span of the preparation program and related certification field.

The table below indicates the grade span for each South Carolina teacher certification field and the required PLT for that field. Note: The PLT taken must align with the grade span of the certification field—not the location in which a teacher works. For example, Physical Education is a PK–12 certification field and requires the PK–12 PLT, not the grade span associated with an elementary, middle, or high school setting where the teacher might work.

Certification Grade/Age Span	Exam Code	Exam Title	Qualifying Score
Early Childhood Certification Fields <i>Early Childhood Education (PK–Grade 3)</i> <i>Montessori Education Early Childhood (3K-5K)</i> <i>Special Education: Early Childhood (Ages 3–5)</i>	5621	PLT: Early Childhood	157
Elementary Certification Fields <i>Elementary Education (Grades 2–6)</i> <i>Montessori Elementary I & II</i>	5622	PLT: Grades K–6	160
Middle Level Certification Fields (Grades 5–8) <i>ML Language Arts</i> <i>ML Mathematics</i> <i>ML Science</i> <i>ML Social Studies</i> <i>Montessori Middle Areas</i>	5623	PLT: Grades 5–9	160
High School Certification Fields (Grades 9–12) <i>Agriculture Education</i> <i>Business and Marketing Education</i> <i>Computer Science</i> <i>English</i> <i>Family and Consumer Science</i> <i>Industrial Technology Education</i> <i>Mathematics</i> <i>Montessori Secondary Science</i> <i>Biology</i> <i>Chemistry</i> <i>Earth and Space Science</i> <i>Physics</i> <i>Social Studies</i> <i>Economics</i> <i>Geography</i> <i>Government</i> <i>History</i> <i>Psychology</i> <i>Sociology</i>	5624	PLT: Grades 7–12	157

Certification Grade/Age Span	Exam Code	Exam Title	Qualifying Score
PK–12 Certification Fields <i>Art</i> <i>Music Education</i> <i>Theater</i> <i>Dance</i> <i>Health</i> <i>Physical Education</i> <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)</i> <i>World Languages</i> <i>Special Education</i>	5625	PLT: PreK–12	157

Other Approved Pedagogy Assessment: [edTPA](#) (Administered by Pearson Evaluation Systems)

Effective January 1, 2018, the State Board adopted the teaching performance assessment edTPA as an option for South Carolina’s educator preparation providers to implement within approved teacher preparation programs. If an educator preparation program requires edTPA as part of the student teaching experience, a candidate may use that performance assessment to meet the South Carolina’s pedagogy exam requirement.

The edTPA assessment is comprised of a series of performance tasks that candidates must complete as part of a portfolio submitted for scoring. Out-of-state applicants who completed edTPA during student teaching may also use a qualifying score for certification in South Carolina in lieu of the PLT.

Candidates enrolled in teacher preparation programs requiring edTPA will receive comprehensive support and assistance from program faculty regarding the portfolio assessment or handbook required for their specific certification area (e.g. Early Childhood Education, Mathematics, etc.). Qualifying scores are based on the number of performance tasks or rubrics within the specific handbook.

Assessment	Qualifying Score
edTPA 13-Rubric Handbooks	32
edTPA 15-Rubric Handbooks	37
edTPA 18-Rubric Handbooks	44