

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

CODE:	<u>EP-01</u>
COMMITTEE:	<u>EP</u>
DATE:	<u>June 3, 2025</u>

SUBJECT/TITLE

South Carolina Certification Assessment Program: 2025-26 Changes

PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM

As established in S.C. Code Ann. § 59-26-30, the State Board of Education (SBE) is responsible for the adoption of certification assessments and related passing scores.

CRITICAL FACTS

S.C. Code Ann. § 59-26-30 authorizes the SBE to adopt educator certification assessments and set passing scores for each assessment. In November 1997, the SBE approved the Praxis series of assessments developed and administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS) for use in South Carolina. Through the Office of Educator Services, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) monitors the implementation of the state's certification assessment program, including test taker performance, and recommends test adoptions, qualifying scores, and other changes on an annual basis.

Beginning with the 2025-26 testing year, the SCDE recommends the following updates to certification assessment requirements. These updates are summarized below and on the summary chart supporting the requested updates.

Regenerated Assessments

ETS is engaged in an ongoing test-regeneration process designed to review Praxis examinations on a consistent basis to keep content current, relevant, and aligned with updated subject area and preparation standards as well as expectations for beginning teachers. As part of this process, ETS has regenerated assessments for the following certification fields:

- Early Childhood Education
 - Regenerated Assessment: Praxis 5534 Early Childhood Education: Foundational Knowledge and Content
 - Recommended cut score: 163
 - Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Current Assessment: Praxis 5024 Education of Young Children will remain an option for candidates during the 2025-26 school year and will be discontinued by ETS after August 31, 2026.

- Middle Level Social Studies
 - Regenerated Assessment: Praxis 5589 Middle School Social Studies
 - Recommended cut score: 149
 - Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Current Assessment: Praxis 5089 Middle School Social Studies will remain an option for candidates during the 2025-26 school year and will be discontinued by ETS after August 31, 2026.

TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

January 3, 2023 The Office of Educator Services presents annual updates to the South Carolina Certification Assessment Program.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

COST: NA
FUND/SOURCE: NA

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments: ☒ yes ☐ no
(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)

Name of Attachments: Summary Chart of 2025-26 Certification Assessment Program Changes

RECOMMENDATION

The SCDE recommends SBE approval of the changes to the South Carolina Certification Assessment Program for 2025-26.

ACTION REQUEST

FOR APPROVAL: ☒ FOR INFORMATION ONLY: ☐

Revised: 12-20-21