

South Carolina Certification Assessment Program: 2026-27 Changes**Subject Area Assessments: Literacy**

State Board Action	Certification Fields	Assessment	Passing Score	Effective Date	Explanation
ADOPT	• Early Childhood Education PK–Grade 3 • Elementary Education Grades 2–6 • All Special Education Fields	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary	159	9/1/2026	Pursuant to the amended Read to Succeed Act (2024), candidates in these fields must earn a passing score on an assessment in the teaching of reading for initial certification beginning 9/1/2026. Candidates will have the option of Praxis 5205 or Pearson 890 to meet the reading assessment requirement.
ADOPT	• Early Childhood Education PK–Grade 3 • Elementary Education Grades 2–6 • All Special Education Fields	Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading	233	9/1/2026	Pursuant to the amended Read to Succeed Act (2024), candidates in these fields must earn a passing score on an assessment in the teaching of reading for initial certification beginning 9/1/2026. Candidates will have the option of Praxis 5205 or Pearson 890 to meet the reading assessment requirement.

State Board Action	Certification Fields	Assessment	Passing Score	Effective Date	Explanation
ADJUST	Read to Succeed Literacy Teacher Endorsement	Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary	165	9/1/2026	Pursuant to the amended Read to Succeed Act (2024), the reading assessment adopted for initial certification must be available as an option for in-service teachers to earn the required literacy endorsement. Other options include LETRS or approved coursework aligned with the science of reading. The State Board of Education approved Praxis 5205 for the in-service endorsement in October 2024. With the adoption of this same assessment for initial certification, the SCDE recommends adjusting the qualifying score for earning the literacy endorsement to 165—one standard error of measurement above the score for initial certification.
RETAIN	Read to Succeed Literacy Teacher Endorsement	Pearson Foundations of Reading (890)	240	9/1/2026	The State Board of Education approved Foundations of Reading 890 as an option for in-service educators to earn the required literacy endorsement in October 2024. The SCDE recommends no change in this option and cut score.

Subject Area Assessments: Elementary Education

Currently, candidates seeking certification in Elementary Education Grades 2–6 must earn a passing score on subject area subtests in reading and language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. The State Board of Education has adopted the Praxis 5000 series, Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects, and the Praxis 7811 series, Elementary Education: Content Knowledge for Teaching (CKT), as options for candidates seeking certification in Elementary Education. In March 2026, ETS launched the new Praxis 8000 series, Elementary Education Fundamentals. These new subtests in the Praxis 8000 series will replace those in the Praxis 5000 and 7811 series, both of which are slated to be discontinued by ETS no later than 2028.

The SCDE recommends the following changes to subject area assessments in Elementary Education to align with the statutory requirement of a reading assessment for initial certification and with changes in the Praxis exams for Elementary Education.

State Board Action	Certification Field	Assessment	Passing Score	Effective Date	Explanation
ADOPT	Elementary Education	Praxis 8003 Elementary Education Fundamentals: Mathematics	152	9/1/2026	This assessment will become an option for candidates to meet the mathematics subtest requirement.
ADOPT	Elementary Education	Praxis 8004 Elementary Education Fundamentals: Social Studies	147	9/1/2026	This assessment will become an option for candidates to meet the social studies subtest requirement.
ADOPT	Elementary Education	Praxis 8005 Elementary Education Fundamentals: Science	143	9/1/2026	This assessment will become an option for candidates to meet the science subtest requirement.

State Board Action	Certification Field	Assessment	Passing Score	Effective Date	Explanation
DISCONTINUE	Elementary Education	Praxis 5002 Elementary Education: Reading and Language Arts	157	8/31/2026	This subtest will be eliminated as an option following the 2025-26 testing year and replaced by the reading assessment requirement that becomes effective 9/1/2026.
DISCONTINUE	Elementary Education	Praxis 5003 Elementary Education: Mathematics	157	8/31/2027	This assessment will remain an option for candidates to meet the mathematics subtest requirement for the 2026-27 school year.
DISCONTINUE	Elementary Education	Praxis 5004 Elementary Education: Social Studies	159	8/31/2027	This assessment will remain an option for candidates to meet the social studies subtest requirement for the 2026-27 school year.
DISCONTINUE	Elementary Education	Praxis 5005 Elementary Education: Science	155	8/31/2027	This assessment will remain an option for candidates to meet the science subtest requirement for the 2026-27 school year.
DISCONTINUE	Elementary Education	Praxis 7812 Elementary Education: Reading and Language Arts CKT	161	8/31/2026	This subtest will be eliminated as an option following the 2025-26 testing year and replaced by the reading assessment requirement that becomes effective 9/1/2026.

State Board Action	Certification Field	Assessment	Passing Score	Effective Date	Explanation
DISCONTINUE	Elementary Education	Praxis 7813 Elementary Education: Mathematics CKT	150	8/31/2026	This subtest will be eliminated as an option following the 2025-26 testing year. Candidates will have the option of taking Praxis 5003 or Praxis 8003 for 2026-27 to meet the mathematics test requirement.
DISCONTINUE	Elementary Education	Praxis 7814 Elementary Education: Science CKT	154	8/31/2026	This subtest will be eliminated as an option following the 2025-26 testing year. Candidates will have the option of taking Praxis 5005 or Praxis 8005 for 2026-27 to meet the science subtest requirement.
DISCONTINUE	Elementary Education	Praxis 7815 Elementary Education: Social Studies CKT	162	8/31/2026	This subtest will be eliminated as an option following the 2025-26 testing year. Candidates will have the option of taking Praxis 5004 or Praxis 8004 for 2026-27 to meet the social studies subtest requirement.