

Assessment Requirements: Literacy, Early Childhood, Elementary Education, and Special Education Fields
South Carolina Certification Assessment Program
With State Board Approval Effective September 1, 2026

Statutory Requirements

- The Read to Succeed Act, as amended in 2024, requires candidates seeking 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.
- 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 Literacy Teacher endorsement.
- Pursuant to S.C. Ann. § 59-25-30, the State Board is authorized to adopt subject area and pedagogy 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 Literacy Teacher Endorsement by Exam
Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Passing Score: 165
or
Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Passing Score: 240

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.

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 Test

- For initial certification, a candidate must earn the score indicated above on either Praxis 5205 or Pearson 890. A candidate earning the higher passing score for the Read to Succeed Literacy Teacher endorsement on Praxis 5205 or Pearson 890 will also be issued the endorsement at the time of certification.
- Effective September 1, 2026, the SCDE will discontinue issuance of the endorsement based on 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 subject area subtests in the content area, a subject area assessment in reading, and a pedagogy assessment.

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

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

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.

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

Subject Area Assessment–Content	Subject Area Assessment–Reading	Pedagogy Assessment
<p><i>Special Education: Learning Disabilities</i></p> <p><u>Test 1</u> Praxis 5355 Special Education Foundational Knowledge Passing Score: 145</p> <p>and</p> <p><u>Test 2</u> Praxis 5383 Special Education: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities Passing Score: 151</p>	<p>Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Passing Score: 159 Endorsement Passing Score: 165</p> <p>or</p> <p>Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Passing Score: 233 Endorsement Passing Score: 240</p>	<p>Praxis 5625 Principles of Learning & Teaching: PreK–12 Passing Score: 157</p> <p>or</p> <p>edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test</p>
<p><i>Special Education: Multi-categorical</i></p> <p>Praxis 5355 Special Education Foundational Knowledge Cut Score: 145</p>	<p>Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Cut Score: 159 Endorsement Cut Score: 165</p> <p>or</p> <p>Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Cut Score: 233 Endorsement Cut Score: 240</p>	<p>Praxis 5625 Principles of Learning & Teaching: PreK–12 Passing Score: 157</p> <p>or</p> <p>edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test</p>
<p><i>Special Education: Severe Disabilities</i></p> <p>Praxis 5547</p>	<p>Praxis 5205 Teaching Reading Elementary Initial Certification Cut Score: 159 Endorsement Cut Score: 165</p>	<p>Praxis 5625 Principles of Learning & Teaching: PreK–12 Passing Score: 157</p>

Subject Area Assessment–Content	Subject Area Assessment–Reading	Pedagogy Assessment
Special Education Severe to Profound Cut Score: 156	or Pearson 890 Foundations of Reading Initial Certification Cut Score: 233 Endorsement Cut Score: 240	or edTPA for Special Education Passing Score: Dependent on Test
Special Education: Hearing Impairments 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
Special Education: Visual Impairments 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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