



Pearson

**Minnesota NES
Essential Academic Skills (EAS)
Subtests I, II, III**

**Standard Setting and Consideration of
Passing Scores**

May 13, 2016



Minnesota
Board of Teaching

Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations (MTLE): Policy Background

- 2010 - Minnesota implements custom tests
 - Basic Skills: Reading, Writing and Mathematics
 - Pedagogy
 - Content-Area Tests
- 2012/2013: Score Setting Repeated for Multiple Exams
- 2014: Legislation passed to add ACT/SAT to options for meeting skills requirement
- June 2015: Legislation changes to allow “Board adopted” exams to meet skills requirement
- Oct 2015: MN Board of Teaching adopts multiple exams to meet the skills requirement (Effective July 1, 2016)

Skills Testing: Policy Background

- 2015 Addition of multiple options to meet skills requirement
 - MTLE
 - ACT/SAT
 - Praxis (for those licensed in other states)
 - **New!:** GRE & NES
- NES (National Evaluation Series) Essential Academic Skills
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Mathematics

The NES® (National Evaluation Series™)

- Professionally developed multistate teacher licensure tests
- Reflect knowledge and skills important for educators
- Free from bias and reflective of the diversity of the U.S. population

NES Essential Academic Skills

- **Reading:** 45 MCQ
- **Writing:** 36 MCQ, 1 written assignment
- **Math:** 45 MCQ

Purpose of Item Validation and Standard Setting

To provide the Minnesota Board of Teaching with passing standard recommendations for the three NES EAS fields based on the informed judgments of a panel of Minnesota educators.

Standard Setting Procedure

- Simulated Test-Taking
- Item Validation and Round One Ratings
- Round Two Ratings: Review and Revise Round One Ratings
- Round Three Ratings: Passing Score Recommendations
- Conference Evaluation

“Just Acceptably Qualified Candidate”

A hypothetical individual who is just at the level of knowledge and skills required to perform the job of an educator receiving an initial educator license in Minnesota.

Minnesota Panel Recommended Cut-Scores and Pass Rates

Field	Multiple-Choice Cut-Score	Constructed Response Cut-Score	*Pass rate at Minnesota Panel-Recommended Cut (%)
Reading	22	--	93%
Writing	19	6	83%
Math	23	--	82%

National Benchmark Cut-Scores and Pass Rates

Field	Multiple-Choice Cut-Score	Constructed Response Cut-Score	*Pass rate at National Benchmark (%)
Reading	24	--	86%
Writing	20	6	76%
Math	24	--	80%

Standard Setting Considerations

- Criterion-referenced Test
- Legal Perspective: Non-arbitrary Process
- Board responsibility
- Content-based Process
- Based on expert judgments
- Standard Error of Measurement (SEM)

Standard Setting Considerations

		True Score At/Above Standard	
		Yes	No
Decision	Pass	✓	False Positive
	Fail	False Negative	✓

SEM Applied to Panel-Recommended Passing Scores: Reading

	Raw Score on Multiple-Choice Section				
	+2 SEM	+1 SEM	PRC	-1 SEM	-2 SEM
	28	25	22	19	16
	% Pass	% Pass	% Pass	% Pass	% Pass
001 Essential Academic Skills Subtest I: Reading	70%	85%	93%	97%	99%

SEM Applied to Panel-Recommended Passing Scores: Writing

			Raw Score on Multiple-Choice Section				
			+2 SEM	+1 SEM	PRC	-1 SEM	-2 SEM
			24	22	19	16	14
			% Pass	% Pass	% Pass	% Pass	% Pass
Constructed-Response Section Holistic Score	+2 SEM	8	19%	33%	59%	79%	89%
	+1 SEM	7	33%	50%	73%	88%	93%
	PRC	6	49%	65%	83%	92%	96%
	-1 SEM	5	59%	73%	89%	95%	98%
	-2 SEM	4	73%	84%	93%	97%	99%

SEM Applied to Panel-Recommended Passing Scores: Math

	Raw Score on Multiple-Choice Section				
	+2 SEM	+1 SEM	PRC	-1 SEM	-2 SEM
	28	26	23	20	17
	% Pass	% Pass	% Pass	% Pass	% Pass
001 Essential Academic Skills Subtest III: Math	57%	68%	82%	91%	96%



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