

Minnesota Education Teacher Licensure Testing Information

[Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations](http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/) (<http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/>)

Introduction:

The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) is responsible for overseeing the teacher testing requirements set forth in [Minnesota Statute 122A.185](#) and is continually monitoring and analyzing the testing program.

Teachers in Minnesota are required to demonstrate competency on a series of tests in basic skills: reading, writing, and math, along with pedagogy, and licensure field specific content area knowledge. The testing requirements vary between tiers, licensure field(s), and initial versus additional licensure field(s).

Although there may be other requirements that must be met for licensure, this document contains only the testing requirements. All testing requirements for pedagogy and field specific content must be fulfilled through Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examination (MTLE). Minnesota accepts alternative means of demonstrating basic skills knowledge other than the Minnesota NES. Alternative tests, minimum scores, and acceptable dates can be found in the basic skills section.

PELSB-Approved Revised Test Score Information

PELSB has worked with our testing vendor, Pearson, to determine revised cut scores for some of the MTLE tests. These revised scores now align with a 95% pass rate for all teacher candidates. For additional information please go to the [PELSB webpage](#) for additional information.

Online Proctoring

[Online proctoring](#) is available for several exams. Online proctoring allows you to take your test securely from your home, school, or business. With just a simple check-in process—involving ID verification, face-matching technology, and a live greeter—you can test without having to travel to a test center. These exams continue to be available via computer-based testing at test centers.

Licensure Fields Not Subject to Testing:

- School Administrator
- School Nurse
- School Social Worker
- School Counselor
- School Psychologist
- Speech Language Pathologist

Minnesota Testing Requirements:

Tier 1: Attempt of field specific MTLE content area tests required for the first renewal only.

Tier 2: Passing scores on MTLE pedagogy tests aligned with area **AND** MTLE field specific content area tests may be used to fulfill one of the options provided for licensure. All tests must be passed and official results posted **before** the application is submitted.

Tier 3: Passing scores on MTLE pedagogy tests aligned with area **AND** MTLE field specific content area tests are required. All tests must be passed and official results posted **before** the application is submitted.

Tier 4: Passing scores on MTLE pedagogy tests aligned with area **AND** MTLE field specific content area tests **AND** basic skills tests are required. All tests must be passed and official results posted **before** the application is submitted.

Testing Format:

The testing format is multiple choice (MC), constructed response (CR), or both (MC/CR).

Pedagogy Tests:

Required for all initial Tier 3 and Tier 4 licenses, or can be used along with the associated content tests as an option for a Tier 2 license.

Each pedagogy test has two required subtests. All pedagogy subtests require minimum passing scores of 240 on a scale of 200-300. See page 1 for information about revised test score links.

- The pedagogy test is aligned to the licensure field sought.
- If a license for grades K-12 is being sought, the applicant must choose **either** the elementary or secondary pedagogy test, both are not required.
- If a license for both early childhood education and elementary education are being sought, the applicant must choose **either** the early childhood or the elementary pedagogy tests, both are not required.
- All pedagogy exams are available for online testing. See page 1 for information on online proctoring.

These licensure fields do NOT have a required pedagogy test; however, individuals with these licenses must pass a pedagogy test to add another license field:

- Adult Basic Education
- American Indian Language, History, and Culture
- Parent and Family Education

Test Name	Subtest	Test Code	Test Length	Test Fee	Test Format
Early Childhood Pedagogy (Birth – Grade 3) Also available in Hmong, Somali and Spanish	1	219	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	2	220	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Elementary Pedagogy (Kindergarten to Grade 6) Also available in Hmong, Somali and Spanish	1	012	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	2	013	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Secondary Pedagogy (Grades 5-12) Also available in Hmong, Somali and Spanish	1	209	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	2	210	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC

Content Area Tests:

Required for Tier 1 renewal and all initial Tier 3 and Tier 4 licenses, or can be used with the associated pedagogy tests as an option for a Tier 2 license.

Each content area test has two required subtests, with the exception of elementary education which has three content area tests. All content area tests require a minimum passing score of 240 on a scale of 200-300.

These licensure fields do NOT have a required content area test:

- Adult Basic Education
- American Indian Language, History, and Culture
- Bilingual Education
- Career and Technical Education
- Driver and Traffic Safety
- Parent and Family Education
- Teacher Coordinators of Work Based Learning

These licensure fields have a required content area test.

ALL SUBTESTS ARE REQUIRED.

Licensure Field	Test Name	Sub Test	Test Code	Test Length	Test Fee	Test Format
Agricultural Education Grades 5-12	Agricultural Education	1	086	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Agricultural Education	2	087	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Business Grades 5-12	Business	1	082	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Business	2	083	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Chemistry Grades 9-12	Chemistry	1	058	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Chemistry	2	059	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Communication Arts and Literature Endorsement Grades 5-8	Middle Level: Communication Arts and Literature	1	196	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Middle Level: Communication Arts and Literature	2	197	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Communication Arts and Literature Grades 5-12	Communication Arts and Literature	1	202	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Communication Arts and Literature	2	203	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC

Licensure Field	Test Name	Sub Test	Test Code	Test Length	Test Fee	Test Format
Computer, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Endorsement Grade level matches current license	Computer, Keyboarding, Related Technology	1	130	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Computer, Keyboarding, Related Technology	2	131	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Dance Grades K-12	Dance	1	213	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Dance	2	214	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Early Childhood Education Grades Birth-3 rd grade	Early Childhood Education	1	204	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Early Childhood Education	2	205	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Earth and Space Science Grades 9-12	Earth and Space Science	1	060	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Earth and Space Science	2	061	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Elementary Education Grades K-6 Also available in Hmong, Somali and Spanish	Elementary Education	1	191	60 minutes	\$36	MC
	Elementary Education	2	192	60 minutes	\$36	MC
	Elementary Education	3	193	60 minutes	\$35	MC
English as a Second Language Grades K-12	English as a Second Language	1	194	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	English as a Second Language	2	195	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Family and Consumer Science Grades 5-12	Family and Consumer Science	1	215	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Family and Consumer Science	2	216	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
General Science Grades 5-8	Middle Level: Science	1	036	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Middle Level: Science	2	037	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Health Grades 5-12	Health	1	056	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Health	2	057	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC

Licensure Field	Test Name	Sub Test	Test Code	Test Length	Test Fee	Test Format
Instrumental Music Grades K-12	Instrumental and Vocal Classroom Music	1	106	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Instrumental Classroom Music	2	206	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Library Media Specialist Grades K-12	Library Media Specialist	1	102	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Library Media Specialist	2	103	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Life Science Grades 9-12	Life Science	1	062	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Life Science	2	063	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Mathematics Endorsement Grades 5-8	Middle Level: Mathematics	1	217	75 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Middle Level: Mathematics	2	218	75 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Mathematics Grades 5-12	Mathematics	1	207	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Mathematics	2	208	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Physical Education Grades K-12	Physical Education	1	112	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Physical Education	2	113	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Physics Grades 9-12	Physics	1	064	75 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Physics	2	065	75 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Pre-Primary Endorsement Age 3-pre-K	Preprimary	1	198	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Preprimary	2	199	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Reading Teacher Endorsement Grades K-12	Reading Teacher	1	211	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Reading Teacher	2	212	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Social Studies Grades 5-12	Social Studies	1	052	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Social Studies	2	053	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC

Licensure Field	Test Name	Sub Test	Test Code	Test Length	Test Fee	Test Format
Social Studies Endorsement Grades 5-8	Middle Level Social Studies	1	032	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Middle Level Social Studies	2	033	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Special Education: All Fields Birth-12	Special Education Core Skills	1	200	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Special Education Core Skills	2	201	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Technology Grades 5-12	Technology	1	080	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Technology	2	081	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Theater Grades K-12	Theater	1	108	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Theater	2	109	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Visual Arts Grades K-12	Visual Arts	1	221	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Visual Arts	2	222	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
Vocal Music Grades K-12	Instrumental and Vocal Classroom Music	1	106	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	Vocal Classroom Music	2	185	60 minutes	\$53.50	MC
World Language and Culture: Chinese Grades K-12	World Language and Culture: Chinese	1	158	120 minutes	\$53.50	CR
	World Language and Culture: Chinese	2	159	120 minutes	\$53.50	CR
World Language and Culture: French Grades K-12	World Language and Culture: French	1	160	120 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	World Language and Culture: French	2	161	120 minutes	\$53.50	CR
World Language and Culture: German Grades K-12	World Language and Culture: German	1	162	120 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	World Language and Culture: German	2	163	120 minutes	\$53.50	CR
World Language and Culture: Spanish Grades K-12	World Language and Culture: Spanish	1	164	120 minutes	\$53.50	MC
	World Language and Culture: Spanish	2	165	90 minutes	\$53.50	CR

Basic Skills Tests:

Reading, Writing, and Math: Required for all initial Tier 4 licenses.

All applicants for an initial Tier 4 license must provide evidence of competency in reading, writing, and math. All Minnesota NES Essential Academic Skills (EAS) subtests require a minimum passing score of 520 on a scale of 400-600. These tests are available for online testing. See page 1 for information on online proctoring.

Minnesota NES Essential Academic Skills: Required for all initial Tier 4 licenses

Test Name	Subtest	Test Code	Test Length	Individual Test Fee	Test Format
Reading	1	188	75 minutes	\$54	MC
Writing	2	189	90 minutes	\$54	MC / CR
Mathematics	3	190	75 minutes	\$54	MC

NES test fees are \$54 for one test, \$79 for any two tests and \$109 for three tests. The basic skills testing requirement may also be fulfilled through a variety of options.

Alternative options for demonstration of proficiency for basic skills are shown below:

Multi-state NES Essential Academic Skills

Reading: 205

Writing: 214

Math: 213

MTLE Basic Skills Test (*this test was discontinued June 8, 2016*)

Reading: 240

Writing: 240

Math: 240

ACT with Writing:

Taken February 2005 to present

Composite Score: 22

Combined English/Writing or ELA: 21

ACT superscoring can be used. See [link](#).

1600 SAT (New Version)

Taken March 1, 2016 to present

Reading + Writing: 550

Math: 570

2400 SAT (Old version)

Taken March 12, 2005 – February 28, 2016

Reading: 510

Writing: 510

Math: 520

GRE

Taken 2001 to August 11, 2011

Verbal Reasoning: 450

Analytical Writing: 3

Quantitative Reasoning: 540

Taken after August 11, 2011

Verbal reasoning: 150

Analytical Writing: 3

Quantitative Reasoning: 145

Praxis I

Taken prior to September 1, 2014

Reading: 173

Writing: 172

Math: 171

Praxis CORE

Taken September 1, 2014 to present

Reading: 156

Writing: 162

Math: 150

ACT/SAT/GRE Tests

The ACT with Writing, SAT, and GRE must be taken as a complete exam. Those who have previously taken the standard version of the ACT must take the new ACT with Writing in its entirety, should they choose this option.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

What is the contact information for PELSB?

Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board
1021 Bandana Boulevard East, Suite 222
Saint Paul, MN 55108-5111

PELSB@state.mn.us

Phone: 651-539-4200

What tests should I take?

It is best to check with the institution where your teacher preparation program was completed to determine the exact program completed or where the program aligns with Minnesota programs. For more information on specific tests visit the [MTLE Testing Website](#).

Content and Pedagogy Testing:

What content tests do I take for a specific special education field, such as ABS?

All special education applicants must take the special education core skills test, which includes two subtests. Both subtests are required.

Where can I take the World Language Content Subtest 2?

The World Languages Content Subtest 2 is only available in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Can I add a science field by MTLE test?

Applicants that have taught science for at least three years at the 7-12 grade level may add a science licensure field (9-12 grade only) by test if the specific MTLE science content exams are passed. For more information, see the Science Licensure document.

Are there any alternative options for special education teachers that have been trained out of state?

Please refer to the Minnesota Special Education Licensing Testing Information document for additional information about special education licensure in Minnesota.

Are there [special testing requirements](#) for deaf or hard-of-hearing (DHH) or American Sign Language (ASL) teachers?

A teacher who is renewing a Tier 1 DHH license is required to provide evidence of an attempt of the special education core skills content tests, the SLPI exam or the ASLPI exam. Passing scores are not required.

A teacher who is renewing a Tier 1 ASL license is required to provide evidence of an attempt of the SLPI exam or the ASLPI exam. Passing scores are not required.

Initial Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 DHH or ASL teacher applicants must provide evidence of achieving either an Intermediate Plus or higher on the SLPI or a 3+ or higher on the ASLPI examination upon application.

What if one or more of the content or pedagogy tests are not yet passed?

- A teacher applying for an initial Tier 2 license must have taken and passed the pedagogy tests and content area tests in the licensure field they are requesting before applying if testing is being used to fulfill one of the options provided for licensure.
- A teacher applying for an initial Tier 3 license must have taken and passed the pedagogy tests and content area tests in the licensure field they are requesting before applying.
- A teacher applying for an initial Tier 4 license must have taken and passed the pedagogy tests and content area tests in the licensure field they are requesting before applying. A Tier 4 teacher applying to add an additional field will be required to take only the content area tests in the field that they are adding.
- Please note that there is a 30 day waiting period between test attempts.

Do I have to pay for the content and/or pedagogy subtest(s) again if I do not pass?

Examinees who do not pass a subtest may retake that subtest until it is passed. Each subtest requires a payment and must be attempted a minimum of two times. After two or more failed attempts of a specific subtest (noted by individual code), an examinee may be eligible for a fee voucher to take the same test. The retake policy can be found under [Testing Policies - Retake Policy](#). Beginning with tests taken on August 23, 2021, examinees who have failed a good-faith attempt on a subtest two or more times may be eligible for a fee voucher for subsequent attempts. Contact MTLE customer service BEFORE signing up for test. You will receive your voucher via email within two to four weeks of the score report date.

Basic Skills:

What if I haven't passed the Basic Skills Tests?

For a teacher applying for a Tier 1, 2, or 3 license, passing the basic skills exams is not required. Anyone who has completed a licensure program, has three years of teaching experience in Minnesota schools, and is applying for a Tier 4 license must pass basic skills exams. *Note: Pedagogy and content testing must have also been passed.*

How should the score reports be submitted?

Praxis/ACT/SAT/GRE: Official Praxis, ACT, SAT, or GRE score reports or copies for tests taken should be sent to PELSB with the complete application or emailed to PELSB@state.mn.us.

MTLE/NES: Official MTLE score reports do not need to be submitted; PELSB staff have secure, read-only access to the official scores. Applicants will be notified if additional information is needed.

Where can I find information about the ACT with writing test or scores?

[Register for the ACT with Writing](#)

[Request a score report for the ACT with Writing](#)

[ACT Superscore](#)

[ACT Superscore Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Where can I find information about the SAT test or scores?

[SAT website](#)

[Register for the SAT](#)

[Request a score report for the SAT](#)

Are there any testing accommodations provided?

[Minnesota Statute 122A.185](#) allows an individual to produce documentation of a disability in the form of an evaluation, 504 plan, or an individual education program (IEP) in order to receive the same testing

accommodations on the teacher licensing examinations that were received during their secondary or post-secondary education.

To request accommodations for any of the exams, please visit the [Alternative Testing Arrangements](#) website. Candidates may also register for extended testing sessions through the MTLE website. Requests must be made **before** scheduling exams.

What are the testing requirements if I am deaf?

[Minnesota Rule 8710.0500](#) states that applicants of a first professional teaching license must provide evidence of completing the skills examinations in reading, writing, and mathematics using the examinations adopted by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board.

Subpart 1(a) also states that an applicant who is deaf must complete the skills examination in mathematics adopted by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board. The reading and writing skills requirements can be completed by either passing the examinations adopted by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board or by an evaluation completed by board approved colleges and universities of demonstrated proficiency in the expressive and receptive use of alternative communication systems, including sign language and finger spelling as measured by the Sign Communications Proficiency Inventory (SCPI).

If you would like to request that the reading and writing examinations be waived, please submit evidence of deafness (a copy of your audiogram). A copy of the SLPI at the Intermediate Plus or higher or a copy of the ASLPI at 3+ or higher is required (if the SLPI/ASLPI is not already in your licensure file). These documents should be submitted as soon as possible to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board for review.

Testing Information Located on the MTLE Website:

How can someone register for a required test?

Once [registered for a test through the MTLE website](#), the candidate is able to immediately schedule a test date and test site.

How can someone prepare for an MTLE test?

The MTLE website has a series of designated pages for each test field. On these pages, you will find a breakdown of content by subtest, a link to specific objectives and descriptive statements about the content on each subtest, along with a set of sample questions and answers. [Additional preparation materials are available on the MTLE website](#).

When are the computer-based MTLE tests offered in Minnesota?

Computer-based tests are available by appointment, year round, Monday through Saturday (excluding holidays) at test centers across the state and nationwide. Test appointments may be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. [Date and seat availability on the MTLE website](#).

Contact Information

[Contact information for the MTLE](#) can be found on the MTLE website.

Phone: (800) 557-3759

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. central time, excluding holidays

Sat: 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. central time, excluding holidays

Live Chat: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. central time, excluding holidays

General questions about the MTLE or score reports may be referred to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board. The [Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board](#) will always have the most up-to-date testing information. (<https://mn.gov/pelsb>)