

Minnesota Special 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 and is continually monitoring and analyzing the testing program.

Special Education (SPED) teachers in Minnesota are required to demonstrate competency on a series of tests. The testing requirements vary between tiers, licensure field(s), and initial versus additional licensure field(s). There is only one content test for all Minnesota special education licensure fields.

Although there may be other requirements that must be met for special education 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 MTLE. Alternative tests, minimum scores, and acceptable dates can be found in the basic skills section.

Minnesota Special Education Licensure Fields:

- Academic and Behavioral Strategist
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Blind or Visually Impaired
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Developmental Disabilities
- Developmental/Adaptive Physical Ed
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Emotional Behavior Disorders
- Learning Disabilities
- Oral/Aural Deaf Education
- Physical and Health Disabilities

Minnesota Testing Requirements:

Tier 1: Attempt of MTLE special education core content area tests required for first renewal.

Tier 2: Passing scores on either the elementary **OR** secondary MTLE pedagogy tests **AND** MTLE special education core 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 either the elementary **OR** secondary MTLE pedagogy tests **AND** MTLE special education core content area tests are required. All tests must be passed and official results posted **before** the application is submitted.

Tier 4: Passing scores on either the elementary **OR** secondary MTLE pedagogy tests **AND** MTLE special education core 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.

- The pedagogy test is aligned to the licensure field sought.
- If a license for early childhood special education is being sought, the applicant must take the early childhood pedagogy test.
- 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.

Test Name	Subtest	Test Code	Test Length	Test Fee	Test Format
Early Childhood Pedagogy	1	010	60 minutes	\$47.50	MC
	2	011	60 minutes	\$47.50	MC
Elementary Pedagogy	1	012	60 minutes	\$47.50	MC
	2	013	60 minutes	\$47.50	MC
Secondary Pedagogy	1	209	60 minutes	\$47.50	MC
	2	210	60 minutes	\$47.50	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.

There is only one MTLE content test in Minnesota for all special education licensure fields: “Special Education Core Skills.” The exam consists of two subtests; both subtests are required. Teachers of special education applying for a first-time Minnesota teacher license or adding their first special education teacher license to a general education license must take this exam. The content area tests require a minimum passing score of 240 on a scale of 200-300.

BOTH SUBTESTS ARE REQUIRED.

Licensure Field	Test Name	Sub Test	Test Code	Test Length	Test Fee	Test Format
Special Education: All Fields Birth-12	Special Education Core Skills	1	200	60 minutes	\$47.50	MC
	Special Education Core Skills	2	201	60 minutes	\$47.50	MC

Alternative Option for Teachers Trained Outside Minnesota

Teachers trained outside of Minnesota for Blind or Visually Impaired (BVI), Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH), or Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) have an alternative option to use passing scores on Praxis or another state’s special education tests developed by Pearson. The tests must have been adopted by the state where the licensure training occurred.

Praxis

The following three Praxis exams are accepted in lieu of the MTLE special education core skills content exam if adopted by the state where the licensure training occurred and in use at the time the preparation was completed. Teachers may submit official exam scores and a copy of the other state’s license with the application for Minnesota licensure.

Test Name	Exam Name
ECSE	Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood
BVI	Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments
DHH	Special Education: Education of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students

Pearson-developed Tests Outside Minnesota

Teachers who completed training in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Washington who took the state’s Pearson-developed special education exam for BVI, ECSE, or DHH may submit official test scores and a copy of the other state’s license with an application for licensure.

Blind or Visually Impaired

State Program	BVI Exam Name
Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments (AEPA)	AZ032 Special Education: Visually Impaired
Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE)	FL044 Visually Impaired K-12
Illinois Licensure Testing System (ITLS)	IL150 Teacher of Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired
Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC)	MI061 Visually Impaired
Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments (MEGA)	MO047 Blind and Low Vision
New York Teacher Certification Exam (NYSTCE)	NY117 Blind and Visually Impaired
Ohio Assessments for Educators (OAE)	OH045 Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired
Certification Examinations for Oklahoma (CEOE)	OK128 Blind/Visual Impairment

Early Childhood Special Education

State Program	ECSE Exam Name
Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments (AEPA)	AZ083 Special Education: Early Childhood
Illinois Licensure Testing System (ITLS)	IL152 Early Childhood Special Education
Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments (MEGA)	MO049 Early Childhood Special Education
Ohio Assessments for Educators (OAE)	OH013 Early Childhood Special Education
Washington Educator Skills Test (WEST)	WA071 Early Childhood Special Education

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

State Program	BVI Exam Name
Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments (AEPA)	AZ026 Special Education: Hearing Impaired
Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE)	FL020 Hearing Impaired K-12
Illinois Licensure Testing System (ITLS)	IL151 Teacher of Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Indiana Core Assessments for Educator Licensure (ICAEL)	IN023 Exceptional Needs – Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC)	MI062 Hearing Impaired
Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments (MEGA)	MO048 Deaf and Hard of Hearing
New York Teacher Certification Exam (NYSTCE)	NY063 Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Ohio Assessments for Educators (OAE)	OH044 Special Education Specialist: Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Certification Examinations for Oklahoma (CEOE)	OK030 Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Washington Educator Skills Test (WEST)	WA072 WEST E – Deaf Education

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 basic skills: 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.

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	\$50	MC
Writing	2	189	90 minutes	\$50	MC / CR
Mathematics	3	190	75 minutes	\$50	MC

NES test fees are \$50 each for one test, \$75 for any two tests and \$100 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 Plus Writing

Taken February 2005 to present

Composite Score: 22
Combined English/Writing or ELA: 21

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

For more information on specific tests visit the [MTLE Testing Website](http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html):
(http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html)

ACT/SAT/GRE Tests

The ACT Plus 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 Plus 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
Phone: 651-539-4200

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

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

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 above for additional information about special education licensure in Minnesota.

What are the testing requirements if I am deaf?

[Minnesota Rule 8710.0500](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=8710.0500) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=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) and a copy of the SLPI at the Intermediate Plus or higher (if the SLPI 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.

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 special education content test before applying if 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 test and special education content test before applying.
- A teacher applying for an initial Tier 4 license must have taken and passed the pedagogy test and special education content test before applying. A Tier 4 teacher applying to add an additional field will be required to take only the special education content test.
- Please note that there is a 45 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 three times. After three 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 at no cost. The retake policy can be found under [Testing Policies - Retake Policy](#). A retake fee voucher request can be made by contacting [Evaluation Systems](#) **BEFORE** registering to take the test.

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

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 scorereports.pelsb@state.mn.us.

MTLE/NES: Official MTLE score reports do not need to be sent; 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 plus writing test or scores?

[Register for the ACT Plus Writing](http://www.actstudent.org/regist/) (<http://www.actstudent.org/regist/>)

[Request a score report for the ACT Plus Writing](http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/) (<http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/>)

[Access ACT Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.actstudent.org/faq/) (<http://www.actstudent.org/faq/>)

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

[Register for the SAT](http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-us-dates) (<http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-us-dates>)

[Request a score report for the SAT](http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/us-services-fees) (<http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/us-services-fees>)

[Access SAT Frequently Asked Questions](http://sat.collegeboard.org/about-tests/sat/faq) (<http://sat.collegeboard.org/about-tests/sat/faq>)

Are there any testing accommodations provided?

[Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.185](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/122A.185) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/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](https://www.mtle.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_AlternativeArrangements.html) website. (https://www.mtle.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_AlternativeArrangements.html)

Candidates may also register for extended testing sessions through the MTLE website.

Testing Information Located on the MTLE Website:

How can someone register for a required test?

Once [registered for a test through the MTLE website](https://www.mtle.nesinc.com/App/SignInForm.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fApp%2fRegister%2fIdentityConfirmation.aspx) the candidate is able to immediately schedule a test date and test site. (<https://www.mtle.nesinc.com/App/SignInForm.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fApp%2fRegister%2fIdentityConfirmation.aspx>)

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.](http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_PreparationMaterials.html)

(http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_PreparationMaterials.html)

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.

[Check on data and seat availability on the MTLE website.](http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_TestDatesAndSites.html)

http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_TestDatesAndSites.html

Contact Information

[Contact information for the MTLE Program](http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/Contacts.aspx) can be found on the MTLE website.

(<http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/Contacts.aspx>)

Phone: (413) 256-2887

(800) 557-3759

Available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central time, Monday-Friday, excluding holidays

TTY: (413) 256-8032

Available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central time, Monday-Friday, excluding holidays

General questions about the MTLE or about score reports may be referred to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board.

The [Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board](https://mn.gov/pelsb) will always have the most up-to-date testing information. (<https://mn.gov/pelsb>)