



Colorado Content Tests

In 1991, the Colorado General Assembly approved a significant policy for educational reform: the Educator Licensing Act. This act involved changes in the professional standards for Colorado educational personnel. The law called for the implementation of a testing program as part of the licensing process. The Colorado Legislature later passed Senate Bill 00-195 that limits Colorado's educator assessment program to content tests only, eliminating tests in basic skills, liberal arts and sciences, and professional knowledge.

Program Licensing Assessments for Colorado Educators (PLACE) exams: Colorado accepts the PLACE content exams for all endorsement areas. The PLACE tests are criterion referenced and objective based. Criterion-referenced tests are designed to measure a candidate's knowledge in relation to an established standard of performance (a criterion) rather than in comparison to the performance of other candidates. The tests are designed to identify those candidates who have the level of knowledge and skills judged important for educators in Colorado schools.

Up to 2004, the objectives on which the tests were initially based reflect the Colorado licensing standards, curriculum materials, and the content of educator preparation programs. A content validation survey, involving randomly selected Colorado school personnel and college and university faculty members, was conducted for each test. Each survey participant reviewed the objectives for his or her field to ensure that the objectives selected for the tests are important to the job of a Colorado educator and are used in Colorado schools. The test questions and exercises are matched to specific objectives and were verified as valid by panels of Colorado educators.

The tests were developed, field tested and normed by Pearson Evaluation System. The passing score for all tests is 220. Pearson administers the tests and collects fees. Tests are administered multiple times during the year. The registration processing fee is \$35.00. The test fees are \$60.00 for first-time test takers. Test re-takers will receive a \$25.00 rebate for repeated attempts. Below is a table of the content tests provided by PLACE:

PLACE EDUCATOR CONTENT ASSESSMENTS	
Administrator (Superintendent)	Physical Education
Agriculture	Principal
Art	Reading Specialist
Business Education	Reading Teacher
Drama	Russian
Early Childhood Education	School Counselor
Elementary Education	School Librarian
English	School Social Worker

Family and Consumer Studies	Science
French	Social Studies
Gifted and Talented	Spanish
German	Special Education Generalist
Health	Special Education: Severe Needs-Cognitive
Instructional Technology	Special Education: Severe Needs-Affective
Italian	Special Education: Severe Needs-Visually Impaired
Japanese	Special Education: Severe Needs-Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Latin	Special Education: Severe Needs-Communication
Linguistically Diverse	Special Education: Profound Needs
Linguistically Diverse Bilingual Education	Early Childhood Special Education
Marketing Education	Speech
Mathematics	Technology Education (Industrial Arts)
Music	Career and Technical Education

PRAXIS II exam: Colorado accepts the PRAXIS II exam for the following areas as approved by the State Board of Education: (1) Audiology; (2) Elementary Education; (3) English Language, Literature and Composition; (4) Mathematics; (5) School Psychologist; (6) General Science; (7) Social Studies; (8) Speech-Language Pathology. These tests are developed nationally and test the content as determined by national associations for each area listed above. Educational Testing Systems (ETS) has developed, field tested and normed these tests. Cut scores or passing rates are recommended by ETS and approved by the State Board of Education. ETS administers the tests and collects fees. Tests are administered multiple times during the year. Some tests are available on-line. The cost for taking the PRAXIS II test ranges from \$50.00 to \$150.00.

The table below provides the passing scores for the PRAXIS II content tests as approved by the State Board of Education:

Audiology	600	This is consistent with all other states and the requirements of the National Association
Elementary Education	147	Other states range from 143 - 153
English Language	167	Other states range from 158 - 166
General Science	152	Other states range from 143 - 166
Mathematics	160	This is the highest cut score in the nation
School Psychologist	165	While some states are lower, no state is higher. This is the recommendation of the National Association
Social Studies	150	Other states range from 143 - 162
Speech-Language Pathology	600	This is consistent with all other states and the requirements of the National Association