

Certification Exam Navigation Special Education PK-12 M.Ed. (Initial Certification)

Important: Students are responsible for reviewing the most up-to-date testing requirements and information available on the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) website. Testing requirements are subject to change, and students should regularly check the PDE website for the most current information regarding required examinations, testing policies, and certification requirements.

As of 9/11/2026, this navigation sheet reflects the most current certification examination requirements and information available from PDE.

1. Click on this link: [Certification Testing - Pennsylvania Department of Education](#)
2. Then click on “**Certification Test and Score Requirements (Excel)**” *This is a live link so always access it from the PDE website*

CERTIFICATION

Testing Requirements

Department of Education

Newsroom

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Certification

Clearances- Background Checks

Pennsylvania requires assessment of candidates in General Knowledge, Professional Knowledge, and Subject Area Knowledge prior to issuance of a certificate. The information on this page provides guidance for completing these requirements. Please review this information carefully prior to completing any assessment requirement.

Test scores are submitted electronically to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) by the test administrator. Test scores are automatically submitted to PDE when tests are taken in Pennsylvania. If not, or if taken remotely, contact the test administrator to request the scores be submitted to PDE.

[Certification Test and Score Requirements \(Excel\)](#)

[CSPG 21- Testing](#)

[TIMS User Guide - Required Testing](#)

3. Once the Excel sheet is open, click on the bottom tab “2-Instructional”

Certification Subject Area	CONTENT TEST NAME & CODE	Is Fundamental Subjects Required?	Qualifying Score 2.80-2.99 GPA	Passing Score	Qualifying Score 3.01-3.25 GPA	Qualifying Score 3.26-3.50 GPA	Qualifying Score 3.51-3.75 GPA	Qualifying Score 3.76-4.0 GPA	Test Registration Link
	Fundamental Subjects Content Knowledge (5511)	† See note below	155	150	149	148	146	145	ETS
Agriculture PK-12	Agriculture (5701)	Yes	155	147	146	145	144	141	ETS
Art Education PK-12	Art: Content Knowledge (5134)	Yes	164	158	157	155	154	152	ETS
Biology 7-12	Biology (5236)	No	161	154	153	151	150	148	ETS
Business-Computer-Information Technology PK-12	Business Education (5101)	Yes	159	154	153	152	150	149	ETS
Chemistry 7-12	Chemistry (5246)	No	153	146	145	143	142	140	ETS
Citizenship Education 7-12	Citizenship Ed: Content Knowledge (5087)	No	153	148	147	146	144	143	ETS
Communications 7-12	Speech Communication (5221)	No	150	145	144	143	141	140	ETS
Computer Science 7-12	Computer Science (5652)	No	156	149	148	146	145	143	ETS
Cooperative Education 7-12	Cooperative Work Education (5961 or 5962)	No	650	644	643	641	640	638	Contact Your Program Advisor
Dance PK-12	Dance (518)	Yes	233	220	217	214	211	207	ETS Person
Earth and Space Science 7-12	Earth and Space Sciences (5572)	No	161	154	153	151	150	148	ETS
English 7-12	English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038)	No	173	167	166	164	163	162	ETS
Environmental Education PK-12	Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (5832)	Yes	164	156	155	154	153	150	ETS
Family & Consumer Science PK-12	Family & Consumer Sciences (5123)	Yes	158	151	150	148	146	144	ETS
General Science 7-12	General Science (5436)	No	149	141	140	138	137	135	ETS

Introduction 1-Basic Skills **2-Instructional** 3-Educational Specialist 4-Administrative +

4. From this tab, scroll down to “Special Education PK-12 Certificates”

Certification Subject Area	CONTENT TEST NAME & CODE	Is Fundamental Subjects Required?	Qualifying Score 2.80-2.99 GPA	Passing Score	Qualifying Score 3.01-3.25 GPA	Qualifying Score 3.26-3.50 GPA	Qualifying Score 3.51-3.75 GPA	Qualifying Score 3.76-4.0 GPA	Test Registration Link
Special Education PK-12 Certificates									
Special Education PK-12	Spec Education: Foundational Knowledge (5355)	Yes	153	145	144	142	141	139	ETS

5. Click on “ETS” link to schedule the test
6. This initial certification **also** requires a fundamental subjects test. Scroll to the top of the page to “Fundamental Subjects Content Knowledge”

Certification Subject Area	CONTENT TEST NAME & CODE	Is Fundamental Subjects Required?	Qualifying Score 2.80-2.99 GPA	Passing Score	Qualifying Score 3.01-3.25 GPA	Qualifying Score 3.26-3.50 GPA	Qualifying Score 3.51-3.75 GPA	Qualifying Score 3.76-4.0 GPA	Test Registration Link
	Fundamental Subjects Content Knowledge (5511)	† See note below	155	150	149	148	146	145	ETS

7. Click on “ETS” link to schedule the test
8. Once you reach the website, navigate to the certification examination you are looking for and verify that the test name and test number match the information provided on the spreadsheet.