

NTE MINIMUM SCORE REQUIREMENTS
APA POLICY REVISIONS
PERSONNEL SERVICES AREA

The State Board of Education (SBE) has the final responsibility of adopting new NTE minimum score requirements if existing policies are to be changed. The State validation study conducted in 1987-89 provides a part of the information on which new score requirements may be based. The validation study indicates that all NTE examinations are valid for use in North Carolina. There are other factors which the SBE may consider in making its final decision, such as, the State's emphasis upon higher educational standards, maintaining a standard comparable to the percentiles of the NTE scores adopted in 1984, the supply and demand for teachers in various areas, and balancing the performance expectations in various testing areas to a similar achievement level. Such factors should increase the probability that individuals admitted into teacher education programs will also meet the certification exit requirements and that individuals in various areas of certification will be held to an equitable level of achievement.

In this paper each test is listed with the present score requirements and a rationale for the "Proposed/DPI Recommended" APA policy revisions.

(1)a. Communication Skills

Present APA score 636

4th percentile

Proposed APA score 639 (7/1/90)

6th percentile

This is the validated score.

Proposed APA score 643 (7/1/92)

10th percentile

Validated score plus 1 S.E.M.*

DPI Recommended APA score 643 (7/1/90)

10th percentile

Validated score plus 1 S.E.M.

DPI Recommended APA score 646 (7/1/92)

14th percentile

Validated score plus 2 S.E.M. The higher score requirements should increase the percentage of those admitted into teacher education programs meeting the exit scores required for certification.

(1)b. General Knowledge

Present APA score 631

2nd percentile

Proposed APA score 641

12th percentile

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 641 (7/1/90)

Same as above

DPI Recommended APA score 645 (7/1/92)

19th percentile

The validated score of 641 plus 1 S.E.M would be 645 which represents the 19th percentile. It is recommended that the validated score of 641 be adopted effective 7/1/90 but that the score be raised to 645 effective 7/1/92. This will give institutions some additional time to implement teacher education program revisions to improve student achievement and test performance.

*Standard Error of Measure

(2) Professional Knowledge

Present APA score 644	13th percentile
Proposed APA score 644	Same as above

The validated score is 638 which represents the 7th percentile. Since the test is valid for use in N. C., no standard lower than the present should be considered.

DPI Recommended APA score 646	15th percentile
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The score of 644 was adopted in 1984 and represented the 17th percentile. That score now represents only the 13th percentile; therefore, it is recommended that the score of 646 be adopted. The score of 646 is based on the validated score of 638 plus 2 SEM's.

(A) Agriculture

No score recommendations.

This test was validated and is appropriate for use in N. C. but a scaled score has not yet been established. When the score problems have been resolved by the Educational Testing Service, a minimum score requirement can be considered.

(B) Art Education

Present APA score 500	11th percentile
Proposed APA score 500	Same as above

No change was proposed since the validated score was 460 which is the 5th percentile. The test is valid for certification but a lower level of achievement is unacceptable.

DPI Recommended APA score 520	16th percentile
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The minimum score of 500 adopted in 1984 represented the 17th percentile. The nearest percentile in 1988-89 is the 16th percentile which is a score of 520. Since the test is still valid for use in certification, the achievement level should not be any less than that required in 1984; therefore, the revised APA score of 520 is recommended.

(C) Audiology

Present APA score 500	1st percentile
Proposed APA score 570	7th percentile

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 570	Same as above
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It is recommended that the validated score be adopted with no increase based on the S.E.M. The 570 score seems reasonable for State Certification when we consider that A.S.H.A. uses this test for national recognition with a current requirement of only 600.

(D) Biology

Present APA score None

New Test

Proposed APA score 510

No percentiles established

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 510

Same as above

The Science areas may now be tested by individual subject areas or in combinations of areas as in (E) and (H). The validated score of 510 is recommended for the initial requirement. It may be revised later as experience with the separate test provides additional data.

(E) Biology and General Science

Present APA score 530

10th percentile

Proposed APA score 550

15th percentile

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 550

Same as above

The validated score represents an equitable score to other certification areas. To add 1 S.E.M. would increase the score to 570 which is the 21 percentile. This is higher than most areas and would decrease the supply in a science area of considerable demand.

(F) Business Education

Present APA score 530

13th percentile

Proposed APA score 530

Same as above

The validated score is 560 which is at the 23rd percentile. Since the score was higher than most areas, the proposed score remained the same.

DPI Recommended APA score 550

19th percentile

The score of 530 adopted in 1984 represented the 20th percentile. The nearest percentile in 1988-89 to that level is the 19th percentile with a score of 550. The validation study shows the test to still be valid; therefore, the revised recommendation calls for retaining the achievement level established in 1984.

(G) Chemistry

Present APA score none

New test

Proposed APA score 460

No percentiles established

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 460

Same as above

The Chemistry test is one of the Science area test separated from the combinations per (E) and (H). The validation study shows the test to be valid for use in the State. There are no percentiles or performance data to reflect on the scoring levels. The validated score of 460 is recommended for this certification area in which there is a very limited supply of teachers. As performance data is generated, the score requirement may be examined for possible change.

(H) Chemistry, Physics and General Science

Present APA score 510	21 percentile
Proposed APA score 510	Same as above

The validation study reports a score of 550 which is at the 37th percentile. This level would have been higher than any other certification area while in an area of extremely short supply; therefore, no change was proposed.

DPI Recommended APA score 510	Same as above
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Based on the extremely short supply, the present score requirement at the 21 percentile level, and a current State failure rate of 32 percent using the 510 score, it is recommended that the score remain at 510.

(I) Early Childhood Education

Present APA score 500	16th percentile
Proposed APA score 500	Same as above

Validated score is 450 which represents the 8th percentile. Since the test is appropriate for certification, the continued requirement of 500 was proposed rather than reducing the requirement.

DPI Recommended APA score 510	17th percentile
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The score of 500 adopted in 1984 was at the 17th percentile level. Currently the 17th percentile represents a score of 510; therefore, it is recommended that the score requirement be set at the 1984 equivalent level.

(J) Earth/Space Science

Present APA score none	New test
Proposed APA score 470	No percentiles established

This is the validated score for Middle Grades Science.

DPI Recommended APA score 470	Same as above
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The Earth/Space Science test is new. Performance data is not yet available. It may be used for certification in Earth Science at the Secondary level. The validated score for Secondary Certification is 460. The test is more appropriate at the Middle Grade Science level where it was validated at 470. To require a lower score at the Secondary level than at the Middle School level does not appear logical; therefore, the 470 is recommended for both levels.

(K) Earth/Space Science (Middle Grades (MG) Science)

Present APA score none	New test
Proposed APA score 470	No percentiles established

This is the validated score for Middle Grades Science. The test is new and is appropriate to the Middle Grades Science level.

DPI Recommended APA score 470	Same as above
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The validated score is recommended as the initial requirement. When performance data on this test is available, the scoring level should be re-examined.

(L) Education in the Elementary School

Present APA score 520 13th percentile

Proposed APA score 520 Same as above

The validated score is 480 which represents the 7th percentile. Since the test is appropriate to use, the proposed score continues the present requirements rather than drop the standard.

DPI Recommended APA score 540 18th percentile

The score of 520 in 1984 represented the 19th percentile. The nearest equivalent percentile is now the 18th with a score of 540. It is recommended that the score of 540 be adopted maintaining the equivalent of the score required in 1984.

(M) Education of Mentally Handicapped Students

Present APA score 510 16th percentile

Proposed APA score 510 Same as above

The validated score is 520 which is at the 19th percentile. The proposed APA score calls for continuing the present requirements.

DPI Recommended APA score 520 19th percentile

The validated score of 520 is justified based on the supply and demand, the performance data for N. C. test takers, and the fact that the 1984 requirement was at the 19th percentile which is the same as the validated score of 520.

(N) Educational Administration and Supervision

Present APA score none Not required for certificate

This test was validated in 1976 with a score of 520 indicated as appropriate but under existing NTE policies would not be applied since Administration and Supervision would not be the initial certification.

Proposed APA score 520 9th percentile

The score was proposed at the 520 level based on the percentile level of the previous validation study and the fact that the current validated score was only 510 which equals the 7th percentile.

DPI Recommended APA score 560 18th percentile

A required achievement level for school leaders which is less than that required for most teachers does not appear to be justified; therefore, the score of 560 at the 18th percentile level is recommended. This score represents the validated score plus 2 S.E.M.s.

(O) English Language and Literature

Present APA score 490 8th percentile

Proposed APA score 490 Same as above

The validated score is 460 which is at the 5th percentile; therefore, the present requirement was presented as the proposed score.

DPI Recommended APA score 510 12th percentile

The 1984 score requirement was at the 13th percentile. The 12th percentile is the closest percentile in 1988-89 and represents a score of 510. This score of 510 is the only score between plus 2 S.E.M.s (500) and plus 3 S.E.M.s (520); therefore, it is recommended that 510 be adopted maintaining the 1984 standard.

(P) English Language and Literature (Middle Grades (MG) Language Arts)

Present APA score none	New use of test
Proposed APA score 400	No percentiles for MG

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 440 Same as above

The use of the English Language and Literature test as the area exam for certification in Middle Grades Language Arts is new. The validation study indicated the test was appropriate and projected a score of 400. The score of 400 represents the first percentile. Considering the level of instruction in the Middle Grades, a requirement this low appears inappropriate; therefore, it is recommended that a score of 440 which is the validated score plus 2 S.E.M.s be adopted. This score represents the 3rd percentile for secondary certification candidates and when Middle Grades performance data has been accumulated, the requirement should be re-examined.

(Q) French

Present APA score 500	12th percentile
Proposed APA score 500	Same as above

The validated score in French is 540 which is at the 25th percentile. Considering the present percentile level, the shortage of teachers in French, and an almost doubling of the rate of failure if 540 were adopted, the proposed score was left at 500.

DPI Recommended APA score 520 19th percentile

The present and proposed score of 500 at the 12th percentile seems too low when compared to other areas and the new validated score. The validated score would move to the 25th percentile which is out of balance in the other direction. It is recommended that the 520 score be adopted which is the 19th percentile and equals the validated score minus 1 S.E.M.

(R) German

Present APA score 470	18th percentile
Proposed APA score 470	Same as above

The validated score is 480 which is at the 20th percentile level; therefore, the proposed score was retained at the 470 level. The present required score in German represents an achievement level as high or higher than the requirements in most other areas. Considering the supply and demand situation, it is recommended that we continue the present requirement.

DPI Recommended APA score 470 Same as above

(S) Health Education

Present APA score none

New test

Proposed APA score 550

No percentiles established

This is a new test. The validated score is 550 and should be adopted. As performance data accumulates, the score requirement should be re-examined.

DPI Recommended APA score 550

Same as above

(T) Home Economics Education

Present APA score 510

7th percentile

Proposed APA score 510

Same as above

The validated score is 470 which represents the 3rd percentile; therefore, the present requirement was proposed to continue.

DPI Recommended APA score 540

13th percentile

The 1984 score was at the 13th percentile. This translates to a score of 540 in 1988-89; therefore, the revised recommendation calls for the equivalent of the 1984 standard.

(U) Industrial Arts Education

Present APA score 520

8th percentile

Proposed APA score 530

9th percentile

The validated score is 530 which is the proposed APA score.

DPI Recommended APA score 560

16th percentile

The 1984 score of 520 was the 15th percentile. The closest 1988-89 percentile to the 15th is the 16th; therefore, it is recommended that a score of 560 be adopted to retain the 1984 standard.

(V) Introduction to the Teaching of Reading

Present APA score none

New test to N. C.

Proposed APA score 470

6th percentile

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 520

11th percentile

N. C. has not used this exam for certification due to the absence of a validation study. Based on national performance data, it is recommended that a score of 520 be adopted. This is the validated score plus 2 S.E.M.s but still only equals the 11th percentile.

(W) Library Media Specialist

Present APA score 510

5th percentile

Proposed APA score 550

9th percentile

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 570

13th percentile

The validated score of 550 at the 9th percentile level is well below the standard for most areas; therefore, a score of 570 which is the validated score plus 1 S.E.M. is recommended.

(X) Marketing Education

Present APA score none

New test

Proposed APA score 620

No percentiles established

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 620

Same as above

It is recommended that the validated score of 620 be adopted with an examination of this score as soon as performance data is available. This is the only specialty area test score in the 600 scoring range.

(Y) Mathematics

Present APA score 510

16th percentile

Proposed APA score 510

Same as above

The validated score is 540 which represents the 26th percentile.

DPI Recommended APA score 510

Same as above

The current failure rate is 14.3 percent. When we consider the supply and demand in Mathematics, it appears appropriate to maintain the present score requirement.

(Z) Mathematics (Middle Grades (MG) Mathematics)

Present APA score none

New application in N. C.

Proposed APA score 490

No percentiles for MG

The validated score is 490 which represents the 10th percentile for candidates for the secondary certification.

DPI Recommended APA score 490

Same as above

This level seems appropriate for the certification of teachers expected to teach through the level of Algebra I.

(AA) Music Education

Present APA score 500

11th percentile

Proposed APA score 500

Same as above

The validated score is 470 which represents the 7th percentile. We see no justification to lower this score.

DPI Recommended APA score 520

16th percentile

The 1984 standard was at the 16th percentile. This represents a current score of 520. It is recommended that we adopt 520 which is the validated score plus 2 S.E.M.'s.

(BB) Physical Education

Present APA score 510

9th percentile

Proposed APA score 550

17th percentile

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 550

Same as above

The percentile is appropriate to other specialty area requirements; therefore, the 550 score is recommended.

(CC) Physics

Present APA score None

New test

Proposed APA score 470

No percentiles established

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 470

Same as above

Given the extremely short supply in Physics, it is recommended that this score be established. When performance data is available, the requirement should be re-examined.

(DD) Reading Specialist

Present APA score 500

7th percentile

Proposed APA score 510

8th percentile

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 560

19th percentile

A score requirement at the 8th percentile is far below the score for most other areas and represents a weak standard for a graduate level certification; therefore, it is recommended that the validated score plus 2 S.E.M.s be adopted.

(EE) School Guidance and Counseling

Present APA score 490

6th percentile

Proposed APA score 500

7th percentile

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 550

13th percentile

The score of 500 at the 7th percentile is below that required for most other areas and represents a low standard for a graduate level certification; therefore, it is recommended that the validated score plus 2 S.E.M.s be adopted.

(FF) School Psychologist

Present APA score none

New test

Proposed APA score 590

No percentiles established

This is the N. C. Validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 590

Same as above

This test has been adopted by the National Association of School Psychologist as a part of the National School Psychology Certification System (NSPCS) and a score of 620 has been established to be awarded a certificate as a Nationally Certified-School Psychologist.

(GG) Social Studies

Present APA score 510

14th percentile

Proposed APA score 510

Same as above

The validated score was 500 which represents the 12th percentile. A lower standard does not seem to be justified.

DPI Recommended APA score 520 17th percentile
This score represents the validated score plus 1 S.E.M. and appears to be more nearly equal to the other speciality test areas.

(HH) Social Studies (Middle Grades (MG) Social Studies)

Present APA score none New application in N. C.
Proposed APA score 480 No percentile for MG

This is the validated score for Middle Grades Social Studies Certification.

DPI Recommended APA score 480 Same as above

This score represents the 8th percentile for secondary certification. It is recommended for the initial requirement with a re-examination when MG performance data is available.

(II) Spanish

Present APA score 500 16th percentile
Proposed APA score 500 Same as above

The validated score is 520 which represents the 23rd percentile which is higher than the requirements for other certification areas.

DPI Recommended APA score 500 Same as above

This appears to be a reasonable requirement when compared to other areas and the supply and demand situation.

(JJ) Special Education (Cross Categorical)

Present APA score none New test for N. C.
Proposed APA score 440 6th percentile

This is the validated score.

DPI Recommended APA score 490 12th percentile

The validated score is much lower than most speciality areas. It is recommended that the validated score plus 2 S.E.M.s be adopted.

(KK) Speech Communications

Present APA score 510 11th percentile
Proposed APA score 510 Same as above

The validated score is 470 which equals the 7th percentile; therefore, the present standard is recommended.

DPI Recommended APA score 510 Same as above

(LL) Speech-Language Pathology

Present APA score 550 7th percentile
Proposed APA score 550 Same as above

The validated score is 440 which represents the first percentile. This level of scoring appears to be unacceptable; therefore, the present standard is recommended.

DPI Recommended APA score 550

Same as above

The score of 550 represents the 1984 standard and should be maintained.

Tests for (MM), (NN), (OO), (PP), and (QQ) are new tests for which there are no current score requirements, percentiles established, or performance data to be considered as a basis for establishing a score requirement other than the validated score; therefore, in each of these areas the validated score should be adopted. These requirements should be re-examined as performance data is available. DPI recommends the adoption of APA scores as follows:

(MM) Teaching Emotionally Disturbed Students 590

(NN) Teaching English as a Second Language 520

(OO) Teaching Hearing Impaired Students 590

(PP) Teaching Learning Disabled Students 500

(QQ) Teaching Visually Handicapped Students 550

SUMMARY OF NTE APA PROPOSALS

THIS TABLE GIVES A DATA SUMMARY FOR THE PRECEDING PAPER. EACH OF THE THREE COLUMNS ("PRESENT", "PROPOSED (8/3/89)", AND THE DPI RECOMMENDATION (DPI REC)) WILL SHOW FOR EACH STANDARD EXAMINATION (1) THE NTE SCORE REQUIREMENT, (2) THE PERCENT OF THE 1987-88 TEST TAKERS IN NC WHO FAILED TO ACHIEVE THAT SCORE, AND (3) THE NATIONAL PERCENTILE WHICH THAT SCORE REPRESENTS. "NA" WILL INDICATE THAT THERE IS NO APPROPRIATE ENTRY FOR THAT SPACE.

STANDARD EXAMINATIONS	PRESENT APA			PROPOSED APA			DPI REC. APA		
(1) Communication Skills As of 7/1/90	636	5.4	4	639	8.1	6	643	12.6	10
As of 7/1/92				643	12.6	10	646	16.7	14
General Knowledge As of 7/1/90	631	2.6	2	641	11.9	12	641	11.9	12
As of 7/1/92				641	11.9	12	645	18.1	19
(2) Professional Knowledge	644	17.1	13	644	17.1	13	646	19.8	15
(A) Agriculture	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
(B) Art Education	500	18.9	11	500	18.9	11	520	20.5	16
(C) Audiology	500	NA	1	570	NA	7	570	NA	7
(D) Biology	NA	NA	NA	510	NA	NA	510	NA	NA
(E) Biology & General Science	530	8.9	10	550	14.1	15	550	14.1	15
(F) Business Education	530	26.7	13	530	26.7	13	550	35.6	19
(G) Chemistry	NA	NA	NA	460	NA	NA	460	NA	NA
(H) Chem., Phys., & Gen. Science	510	32.1	21	510	32.1	21	510	32.1	21
(I) Early Childhood Education	500	19.3	16	500	19.3	16	510	20.6	17
(J) Earth/Space Science	NA	NA	NA	470	NA	NA	470	NA	NA
(K) Earth/Space Science (Mid.Gr.Sc.)	NA	NA	NA	470	NA	NA	470	NA	NA
(L) Education in the Elem. School	520	12.7	13	520	12.7	13	540	16.3	18
(M) Educ. of the Mentally Retarded	510	10.8	16	510	10.8	16	520	13.1	19
(N) Educational Leadership:									
Administration & Supervision	NA	NA	NA	520	NA	9	560	NA	18
(O) English Language & Literature	490	8.9	8	490	8.9	8	510	12.6	12
(P) English Language & Literature (Middle Grades Language Arts)	NA	NA	NA	400	NA	1	440	NA	3
(Q) French	500	9.4	12	500	9.4	12	520	12.5	19
(R) German	470	NA	18	470	NA	18	470	NA	18
(S) Health Education	NA	NA	NA	550	NA	NA	550	NA	NA
(T) Home Economics Education	510	4.9	7	510	4.9	7	540	6.6	13
(U) Industrial Arts Education	520	14.3	8	530	23.8	9	560	26.2	16
(V) Intro. to the Teach. of Reading	NA	NA	NA	470	NA	6	520	NA	11
(W) Library Media Specialist	510	4.4	5	550	11.1	9	570	15.6	13
(X) Marketing Education	NA	NA	NA	620	NA	NA	620	NA	NA
(Y) Mathematics	510	14.3	16	510	14.3	16	510	14.3	16
(Z) Mathematics (Middle Grades Math.)	NA	NA	NA	490	NA	NA	490	NA	NA
(AA) Music Education	500	17.8	11	500	17.8	11	520	23.6	16
(BB) Physical Education	510	14.0	9	550	23.8	17	550	23.8	17
(CC) Physics	NA	NA	NA	470	NA	NA	470	NA	NA
(DD) Reading Specialist	500	NA	7	510	NA	8	560	NA	19
(EE) School Guidance & Counseling	490	7.5	6	500	8.2	7	550	14.2	13
(FF) School Psychologist	NA	NA	NA	590	NA	NA	590	NA	NA
(GG) Social Studies	510	21.8	14	510	21.8	14	520	24.7	17
(HH) Social Studies (Middle Grades Social Studies)	NA	NA	NA	480	NA	NA	480	NA	NA
(II) Spanish	500	18.1	16	500	18.1	16	500	18.1	16
(JJ) Special Edu. (Cross Categorical)	NA	NA	NA	440	4.2	6	490	22.9	12
(KK) Speech Communication	510	NA	11	510	NA	11	510	NA	11
(LL) Speech-Language Pathology	550	25.8	7	550	25.8	7	550	25.8	7
(MM) Teaching Emotionally Disturbed Students	NA	NA	NA	590	NA	NA	590	NA	NA
(NN) Teaching English as a Second Language	NA	NA	NA	520	NA	NA	520	NA	NA
(OO) Teaching Hearing Impaired Stu.	NA	NA	NA	590	NA	NA	590	NA	NA
(PP) Teaching Learning Dis. Students	NA	NA	NA	500	NA	NA	500	NA	NA
(QQ) Teaching Vis. Handicapped Stds.	NA	NA	NA	550	NA	NA	550	NA	NA

NTE Core Battery Examinations
Comparisons of Minimum Score Recommendations

<u>NTE</u>	<u>CURRENT CUT-OFF SCORES</u>	<u>ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION TO INITIATE APA</u>	<u>JOINT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION RECOMMENDATION</u>
CORE 1 (Communications Skills)	636 (4%)	639 (6%) Eff. 7/1/90 643 (10%) Eff. 7/1/92	643 (10%) Eff. 7/1/90	643 (10%) Eff. 7/1/90 646 (14%) Eff. 7/1/92
CORE 2 (General Knowledge)	631 (2%)	641 (12%) Eff. 7/1/90	645 (19%) Eff. 7/1/90	641 (12%) Eff. 7/1/90 645 (19%) Eff. 7/1/92
CORE 3 (Professional Knowledge)	644 (13%)	644 (13%) Eff. 7/1/90	646 (15%) Eff. 7/1/90	646 (15%) Eff. 7/1/90