R.I. DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION
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RIDE Rhode Island Department of Education

Educator Preparation Admissions Criteria

Effective: January 2023

Context:

As outlined in the Rhode Island Standards for Educator Preparation, Rhode Island providers and programs use a variety of information—including but not limited to prior performance, professional dispositions and other traits, and academic potential—in their admissions processes. The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) understands the value of using multiple measures to inform candidate admission decisions and acknowledges the importance of ensuring that candidates are prepared for collegiate-level coursework and will be able to engage Rhode Island students in a rigorous course of study.

RIDE has established minimum academic admissions requirements since 2009 and recognizes that, in some cases, other measures may provide information about a candidate's potential to succeed academically in the program and as an educator. For this reason, RIDE has revised the minimum admissions criteria to accomplish the following objectives:

- Provide more opportunity and flexibility for educator preparation programs (EPPs) to develop and cultivate future educators

- Acknowledge proficiency in mathematics and English language on Rhode Island's high school assessment or a comparable assessment as one tool among multiple admissions criteria

Rationale:

Academic readiness is critical to ensure candidates are prepared to succeed in college and to support PK-12 students. Utilizing admissions tests of general knowledge as a diagnostic tool will provide flexibility at admissions into preparation programs. EPPs are then responsible for supporting candidates to meet program requirements and be ready for their roles in PK-12 schools. Candidates may enter preparation programs with gaps in their academic readiness; therefore, EPPs must be positioned to support candidates in addressing such gaps while preparing them to excel as preservice educators.

Undergraduate Requirements:

- Individual undergraduate candidates should have at least a 2.75 undergraduate GPA at admissions
  - Providers may accept candidates who do not meet the GPA requirement if they have a documented plan/policy to monitor success and support candidates.

- Beginning in December 2022, the cohort average requirement is eliminated.

- Individual undergraduate candidate performance on admissions testing should serve as a diagnostic tool to inform necessary supports for students entering the program.

  - All candidates must take the SAT®, ACT®, or Praxis® Core prior to admission into the program.

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- Any institution using other assessments for placement or admissions may seek RIDE approval to use these tests in lieu of the SAT®, ACT®, or Praxis®.

  o The college and career benchmark scores found in Table 1 should function as a baseline to inform potential skills and content needed to be successful in college and the program.

  o EPPs should consider a student's chosen course of study as well as the testing area of concern to outline an appropriate course of action.

  - **For Example**: If a student scores lower than 530 on the math SAT, support(s) should be established to ensure the candidate continues to build math knowledge as well as understanding how to support students to think about math.

  - **For Example:** If a student struggles to improve the expression of ideas in writing, the candidate may be assigned an advisor who regularly meets with them to review, discuss, and improve their work.

  - **Supports May Include:**
    - Additional courses assigned to the candidate to close content gaps
    - Assignment of an advisor who meets regularly with the candidate to ensure academic success and provides progress monitoring through communication with professors and review of work
    - Assistance with appointments at academic support centers

Table 1: College and Career Readiness Benchmarks

SAT®		ACT®			Praxis® Core		
Evidence-based Reading & Writing	Math	English	Reading	Math	Reading (5713)	Writing (5723)	Math (5733)
480	530	18	22	22	168	165	170

Post-Baccalaureate Requirements (including administrator and support professional programs)

- Individual candidates should have at least a 3.0 undergraduate GPA or at least a 3.0 GPA in graduate coursework (at least 24 credits).

  o Providers may accept candidates who do not meet these requirements if they have a documented plan/policy to monitor and support candidates.