

**Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality  
Special Announcement  
November 9, 2016**

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**IMPORTANT:**

**A Webinar explaining the Mixed Basic Skill Policy and the Composite Score Calculator will be offered on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

To join the session, please click on the link below within 15 minutes of the specified time.

[Join the Webinar](#)

PDE announced **changes to the basic skills certification testing policies** on October 28, 2016 that are effective immediately and retroactively.

**New SAT Scores effective February 29, 2016**

SAT Section	Score
Reading	27
Mathematics	26
Writing & Language	28

**New ACT Writing Score effective August 31, 2016**

ACT Test	Score
Reading	22
Mathematics	21
Writing	8

**Basic Skills Mixed Test Composite Scores**

We have changed the method for calculating composite scores for all basic skills tests. The new method is simple:

- Add up the three passing scores for your best reading, writing and mathematics test to calculate the composite score needed
- Achieve no less than the minimum composite score on each of the three tests, plus
- Achieve scores that add up to the composite total or higher

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Examples:

Mixed Test Example	Required Passing Score	Minimum Composite Score	Student's Score
SAT Reading (March 2016)	27	25	27
CORE Writing	162	158	160
PPST Mathematics	173	170	176
New Composite:	362	Earned Composite:	363

Mixed Test Notes:

- Different test companies may be used
- Old and new tests may be combined

The minimum composite score is one standard error of measurement less than the required passing score.

Single Test Example	Required Passing Score	Minimum Composite Score	Student's Score
PAPA Reading	220	193	212
PAPA Writing	220	192	240
PAPA Mathematics	193	176	184
New Composite:	633	Earned Composite:	636

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**Composite Score Calculator**

The [Composite Score Calculator](#) is posted on our website for faculty and their students to easily determine if the student(s) have met the basic skills requirement in a series or by combining the best scores from different tests.

PDE Basics Skills Certification Calculator ver D8.0								
My Tests  Clear All Scores	Select PAPA Timeframe Below	My Scores					Total	Do I Qualify?
		Reading <small>Qualifies For Mixed Score Option</small>	Mathematics <small>Qualifies For Mixed Score Option</small>	Writing <small>Qualifies For Mixed Score Option</small>				
ACT - (09/01/2015 - 08/31/2016 Only)						0	No	
ACT - New (09/01/2016 and Later)						0	No	
CORE Academic (Instructional)						0	No	
PAPA (Provide Date Info)	(Select Timeframe)					0	No	
SAT - Old (Prior to 03/01/2016)						0	No	
SAT - New (03/01/2016 and Later)						0	No	
PPST (Praxis) (Instructional)						0	No	
<b>Mixed Score Qualification Option:</b>								N/A

**Tips on using the [Composite Score Calculator](#)**

- When a candidate enters a basic skills score for Reading, Mathematics, and Writing using different tests, the “Qualifies for Mixed Score Option” column displays “Yes” if the score entered is equal or higher than the required qualifying score.
- The “Qualifies for Mixed Score Option” column remains **blank** when the score does not meet the required qualifying score.
- The “Qualifies for Mixed Score Option” column remains blank when the student’s scores for Reading, Mathematic, and Writing are from the same test series.
- Refer to the “Qualification Rules” tab in the calculator for the required passing and minimum scores for each test.

The [Certification Testing Webpage](#) now includes:

- [Certification Staffing and Policy Guidelines \(CSPG\) 21](#) contains all testing policies
- The [Certification Test and Score Requirements](#) workbook has basic skills, instructional, educational specialist, administrative and vocational sections.
- [Composite Score Calculator](#) described above.

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**Additional Testing Announcements**

- **Vocational candidates** may take advantage of the mixed test composite policy; however, they must meet the minimum composite scores.
- **Mid-Level 7-9 tests**, formerly taken for certification and most recently for HQT, may be used as a Grades 4-8 concentration test if the candidate registered or passed the test prior to September 1, 2016.
- **Instructional Add-Ons**. PDE will approve add-on subjects included with a Pennsylvania approved program application when:
  - (1) The add-on subject passing test scores are present when the application is evaluated;  
and
  - (2) The recommending institution indicates which subjects are being added in the comment box.