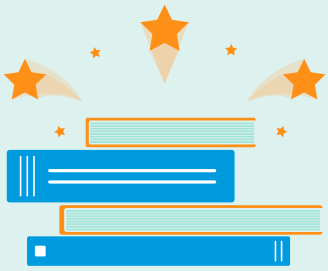

EARLY LITERACY EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Announcing OSSE's Approved Structured Literacy Competency Assessment

Praxis ETS 7002

(Elementary Education: Teaching Reading)

In fall 2023, the Early Literacy Education Task Force released a report outlining actionable steps needed to advance literacy instruction in the District. The report recommended that all **K-grade 5 educators demonstrate competency in structured literacy through one of three pathways:**

1. Completion of an approved structured literacy training.
2. Prior completion of an approved structured literacy training.
3. Receipt of a passing score on an approved structured literacy competency assessment.

As a result, the DC Council passed DC Code § 38–2264. Achieving competency in structured literacy instruction. This legislation **mandates that all teachers assigned to teach kindergarten demonstrate structured literacy competency during the 2025-26 school year through one of the three pathways described above.**

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) released guidance regarding approved structured literacy trainings in July 2024 to ensure educators were equipped to demonstrate competency via the first two pathways. **OSSE is pleased to announce it has selected an approved structured literacy competency assessment** to satisfy the third pathway.

Based on a comprehensive review by OSSE's Literacy Specialist and additional literacy professionals from public and charter schools across the District, **OSSE identified Praxis 7002 as the approved structured literacy competency assessment.** Praxis 7002 is designed to measure the knowledge and skills teachers must have to support reading and writing and is grounded in practice standards from the International Literacy Association and the International Dyslexia Association.

OSSE is offering this guidance document to notify kindergarten educators of OSSE's approved Structured Literacy competency assessment and answer relevant questions for kindergarten educators seeking to demonstrate structured literacy competency through a competency exam.

Structured Literacy Competency Assessment

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

1. Does OSSE use this assessment to earn certification for general elementary education?

Yes, OSSE has identified the use of Praxis ETS 7002 as a way to earn general elementary certification. OSSE believes that teachers seeking licensure in DC should demonstrate the same competency in structured literacy as teachers currently in the classroom. For more information on licensure assessments please visit: Educator Credentialing Exams | osse

2. Is this assessment required under DC Act 25-550?

DC Act 25-550 requires all kindergarten teachers to demonstrate structured literacy competency during the 2025-26 school year, but educators may choose to demonstrate competency via an approved structured literacy training or a passing score on this assessment. For requirements of this assessment related to licensure please visit: Educator Credentialing Exams | osse.

3. What is considered a "passing score" on Praxis ETS 7002?

OSSE considers a score of 143 or higher as a passing score on ETS 7002.

4. Why was this assessment chosen as the required competency exam?

The exam was reviewed by experienced literacy educators and professionals in DC. They found this exam fully aligned with the Science of Reading research, rigorously assesses conceptual application over recall, and thoroughly addresses all strands of Scarborough's Reading Rope.

5. How long is the assessment and what does it cover?

The Praxis ETS 7002 is approximately 110 minutes with 80 questions. The exam assesses five content areas: Phonological and Phonemic Awareness and Emergent Literacy, Phonic and Decoding, Vocabulary and Fluency, Comprehension of Literacy and Informational Text, and Written Expression.

6. How can I prepare for the assessment?

The Praxis ETS 7002 website offers free and at cost supplemental resources for educators to prepare for the exam. Please note that one of the at-cost supplemental aides is included in your registration.

7. How much does the assessment cost?

The Praxis ETS 7002 exam costs $85 to register.

8. Where can I register for the exam?

Please register for the exam here.