

**California
Commission on Teacher Credentialing**

**Meeting of
March 6, 2003**

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: PERF - 2
COMMITTEE: Performance Standards
TITLE: Proposed Passing Standard for the School Leaders
Licensure Assessment

Action
 Information
 Report

Strategic Plan Goal(s):

Goal 1: Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- Sustain high quality standards for the preparation of professional educators
- Sustain high quality standards for the performance of credential candidates

Goal 6: Provide leadership in exploring multiple, high quality routes to prepare professional educators for California's schools

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Proposed Passing Standard for the School Leaders Licensure Assessment

Professional Services Division

March 6, 2003

Executive Summary

At its December 2000 meeting, the Commission adopted the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) to serve as the examination option for obtaining a Preliminary Administrative Services credential pursuant to E.C. §44270.5 (S.B. 1655, Scott.) This item provides for the Commission's consideration a proposed passing score for the SLLA that would apply to California candidates for the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential electing to use the examination option.

Fiscal Impact Summary

The Commission budget supports the costs of these activities and no budget augmentation is needed to implement this certification option.

Policy Issues to be Considered

What is the appropriate passing standard for prospective California administrators using the examination option for obtaining the California Preliminary Administrative Services Credential?

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt a passing standard of 167 for California examinees.

Proposed Passing Standard for the School Leaders Licensure Assessment

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Overview

In August 2002, Governor Davis signed Senate Bill 1655 (Scott) which created a number of alternatives for obtaining Preliminary and Professional Clear Administrative Services Credentials. One option created by this statute was successful passage of a test adopted by the Commission for this purpose in lieu of completion of an administrator preparation program.

In December 2002 the Commission adopted the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS) to serve as the examination to be used in California as the test option created by SB 1655. While ETS administers the same form of this examination in all states in which it is used, each state has the authority to set its own passing standard for its candidates.

This item provides a proposed passing standard of 167 for the Commission's consideration and describes the activities staff have undertaken to arrive at this proposed passing standard.

Information Considered in Deriving the Proposed Passing Standard for the SLLA

Staff has considered three sources of information in deriving the proposed SLLA passing standard for California examinees:

- Results of a standard-setting study involving current California administrators;
- Passing standards adopted by other states using the SLLA; and
- Scores obtained by examinees in the first administration of the SLLA in California.

In October 2002, ETS staff led a standard-setting activity with a panel of current California school administrators and professors of educational administration. The panel was introduced to the examination format, reviewed sample items and marker responses, and discussed and recommended appropriate response levels for beginning school administrators on each item. By considering and compiling the individual recommendations of each panel member, ETS determined that the overall recommended passing standard of the standard-setting panel for California SLLA examinees was 173. (The SLLA is scored on a scale of 100 to 200.)

The SLLA was administered in California for the first time on January 11, 2003. Individuals taking the examination at that administration and in the future will need to have achieved the passing standard set by the Commission to be recognized as passing the SLLA. California's passing standard should represent an appropriate level of proficiency for a beginning California administrator. Given that performance on the SLLA will be the sole indicator of administrative ability of candidates electing to use the examination option, it is appropriate for California to establish a high passing standard for the SLLA. At the same time, the passing standard should

not be so high as to unnecessarily preclude qualified individuals from obtaining a California Preliminary Administrative Services Credential through this option.

Other States Using the SLLA

Twelve other states have adopted the SLLA in their administrator certification structures, and eight have established passing standards for their examinees. The eight states that have adopted the SLLA, together with the individual passing standards each has adopted, are listed below:

Arkansas	158
Kentucky	155
Maryland	157
Mississippi	154
Missouri	161
North Carolina	155
Pennsylvania	159
Tennessee	156

It should be noted that these states use the SLLA for a different purpose than that intended in California. Specifically, these states require candidates to both complete a formal administrator preparation program and pass the SLLA in order to qualify for an administrative services credential. Staff believe it is appropriate for California to establish a higher passing score for its examinees than that used by these other states given the difference in the way the SLLA will be used in this state. However, this consideration must be balanced with a need to ensure that the examination will be a practicable option for qualified candidates. The performance of the first group of California examinees provided a third information source for staff consideration.

Sixty-one individuals attempted the examination at California's January 2003 administration, and ETS has provided staff with a breakdown of the scores those examinees obtained. (No information on the level of prior preparation of these examinees is available.) The scores ranged from 155 to 192, with an average score of 176.6, and a median score of 177. If the Commission were to adopt a passing standard equivalent to the highest standard set by another state (161), the passing rate for the first group of examinees would be 98.3%. If the Commission set the passing standard at that recommended by the standard-setting panel (173), the passing rate for those examinees would be 72.1%. If the Commission adopted a passing standard at an average of these two levels (167), the passing rate for the first group of California examinees would be 88.5%.

ETS also provided the Commission with data on scores of all examinees nationwide in 2001-2002. A total of 3,472 individuals attempted the SLLA during this period. At a passing standard of 161, the passing rate for these examinees would have been 91.7%. At a passing standard of 173, the passing rate for these examinees would have been 57.7%. At a passing standard of 167, the passing rate for these examinees would have been 79.3%.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt a passing standard of 167 for California examinees.