



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

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TO:

All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities
of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing

FROM:

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Executive Director
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

SUBJECT: Minimum Passing Scaled Scores Adopted for the Revised RICA Written Examination and Video Performance Assessment

Summary:

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing, at its October 1-2, 2009 meeting, adopted a minimum passing scaled score of 220 for the revised RICA Written Examination, initially administered on August 8, 2009. The Commission also adopted a minimum passing scaled score of 220 for the revised Video Performance Assessment, with the initial submission date for candidate materials on November 13, 2009.

Key Provisions:

Passage of either the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) Written Examination or Video Performance Assessment is required of most California-prepared elementary and special education credential candidates in order to verify the knowledge and skills important for the provision of effective reading instruction to students. Recent revisions to the RICA examinations resulted in the need for new passing standards.

Scores for the revised RICA Written Examination, initially administered on August 8, 2009, will be scaled to a range of 100-300, with 220 representing the Commission-adopted minimum passing standard. The revised RICA Video Performance Assessment minimum passing standard will be applied beginning with the initial submission date of November 13, 2009. As with the Written Examination, a scaled range of 100-300 will be applied to the Video Performance Assessment, with 220 representing the Commission-adopted minimum passing standard.

Important Dates:

August 8, 2009Initial administration of the revised RICA Written Examination
November 13, 2009....Initial submission of candidate materials for the revised RICA
Video Performance Assessment

Background:

In 2006, the Commission initiated an advisory panel, the RICA Design Team, to align the RICA Content Specifications with the newly revised K-12 *Reading/Language Arts Framework*. The Design Team members recommended revisions to the Content Specifications based on the 2007 *Framework*, current research, comments from close to 500 public school educators and teacher educators, and their own expertise and experience in the area. The Commission approved the revised specifications with only minor modifications at its November 2007 meeting. The revised specifications include greater emphasis on phonemic awareness, reading fluency, vocabulary development, academic language usage, reading comprehension, and diversified reading instruction.

After the new test items were developed and field tested to confirmed the high quality of the items and the viability of the testing formats, the Commission established the RICA Standard Setting Panel to determine a recommended minimum passing standard based on their review of the revised Content Specifications, the revised examinations, “live” examination responses, and the scoring characteristics and measurements. Both the Design Team and the Standard Setting Panel represented California elementary teachers, district- and county-level educators, and teacher preparation faculty, all with significant expertise and experience in the teaching of reading.

References:

Reading Instruction Competence Assessment, including the revised content specifications, test structure, sample test questions, and test registration:
<http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com>

Agenda Items related to the Revised RICA Examinations: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>

Contact Information:

Contact the Commission’s Information Services Unit by telephone at (888)921-2682, Monday through Friday from 12:00 pm to 4:45 pm or by electronic mail at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.

