

Multiple Measures of Content Competency Guidance for Educator Preparation Programs



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General Information

Established in 2023 by Colorado House Bill 22-1220, Multiple Measures of Content Competency increases the number of ways initial teacher licensure candidates may demonstrate depth of content knowledge toward meeting requirements for their first Colorado teacher license. The options for demonstrating depth of content knowledge detailed in this guidance are for those applying for their first Colorado teacher license only and also includes information for alternative licensure candidates.

Multiple Measures is an option for individuals who completed or are nearing completion of an approved educator preparation program and would like to demonstrate depth of content knowledge in their desired endorsement area in a manner different from taking the approved Praxis exam(s) or alternative candidate pathway options such as a bachelor's or higher degree in the content area from a regionally accredited college/university, or 24 semester hours of specific coursework (available to secondary, K-12, middle school endorsement areas only).

Eligibility and Components

Multiple Measures of Content Competency is for initial teacher licensure only* and requires candidates seeking licensure under this option to have all of the following:

- a bachelor's or higher degree,
- completion or nearing completion (less than one year from completion) of an approved educator preparation program, and
- submission of a completed Multiple Measures of Content Competency Worksheet and corresponding evidence for review.

**Alternative licensure candidates that do not meet original criteria for a Statement of Assurance may under Multiple Measures of Content Competency.*

The evidence for Multiple Measures of Content Competency includes the following:

- **Content exam(s):** official score report from state-approved [Praxis exam\(s\)](#) showing passing score
- **Coursework:** official transcript and appropriate syllabi for relevant courses in the endorsement area with a minimum grade of B- or higher from a regionally accredited institution
- **Portfolio:** evidence that clearly demonstrates the candidate's depth of knowledge in the endorsement content standard areas defined by the worksheet. A portfolio consists of coursework and teaching-based evidence that demonstrates depth of content knowledge, including, but not limited to
 - live teaching videos,
 - copies of lessons delivered by the applicant,
 - syllabi and other curricular materials developed or used by the applicant,
 - papers written by the applicant,
 - demonstrated classroom experience in which a rubric review was utilized, and/or
 - professional development assessment of content knowledge, etc.

- **Combination:** the combination of the above types of evidence to demonstrate content competency for the totality of the endorsement area defined by the Multiple Measures of Content Competency worksheets.

Multiple Measures of Content Competency Worksheets outline content knowledge requirements for each endorsement as defined in State Board of Education rules and the respective area(s) that require evidence. These worksheets further detail the areas in which candidates must supply evidence for each endorsement. Please note that elementary education, early childhood education (ECE), early childhood special education (ECSE), and special education generalist require proof of multiple areas of content competency. Applicants who desire the READ Act Teacher Training designation on their license must still take and pass the Praxis 5205.

Review Process and Decision Timeline

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) staff will evaluate submissions based on measures selected to demonstrate content competency. Candidates submitting via the Portfolio or Combination options will have their evidence reviewed by the CDE team to determine if there is sufficient evidence of alignment with content standards.

In order to submit evidence for review, applicants will need to create a [COOL account](#), if they don't have one already (it is recommended that applicants use a personal email address), [gather the necessary information and documentation](#) (i.e. fingerprinting, disclosure, etc.), and submit the following items through the "Submit for Review" form:

1. A completed Multiple Measures of Content Competency Worksheet for the requested endorsement area(s),
2. Documentation and evidence for each identified knowledge area on the worksheet (i.e. Praxis score, post-secondary coursework with the official transcripts and syllabi, and/or portfolio evidence), and
3. Evidence of a completed bachelor's degree (i.e. official transcript(s) with conferred degree).

Applicants will be notified once their submission has been evaluated. Once a decision is made, a notification will be sent via email to the email address listed on the application as well as notification within the COOL system.

Applicants will take their proof of approval (official email noted above) to their educator preparation program in order to have their Approved Program Verification Form (APV) signed to move forward in the licensure process. Applicants will also be notified if their submission is not approved. Applicants can then decide how best to proceed, whether through a subsequent submission with additional information, by taking a course that meets requirements, and/or by taking the approved Praxis exam(s).

There is no additional cost to the candidate to submit for licensure via the Multiple Measures of Content Competency options. However, per statute, CDE will only review 1000 portfolio submissions each academic year (July-June) on a first-come, first-served basis (C.R.S. 22-60.5-203(3)(b)). Submissions beyond that number may require exploration of a different option to demonstrate content competency for initial licensure or a delay in being able to receive an initial or alternative teacher license.

Special Considerations for Candidates

Multiple Measures is an option for individuals who would like to demonstrate depth of content knowledge in their desired endorsement area in a manner different from taking the approved Praxis exam(s) that meet minimum score requirements.

There are several candidate groups that have special considerations and are outlined below.

Alternative Educator Preparation Program Entry Candidates and Alternative Licensure Authorization

Alternative licensure candidates can continue to qualify for an alternative license via a completed [Statement of Assurance](#) (SOA), a degree-conferred transcript, and at least one (1) of the following:

- Praxis exam(s) that meet minimum score requirements,
- Earning a bachelor's or higher degree in the content area from a regionally accredited college/university, or
- 24 semester hours of specific coursework (available to secondary, K-12, middle school endorsement areas only) with a minimum grade of B- or higher as outlined on [CDE Added Endorsement/Alternative License Worksheets](#)
 - Note: Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) is not available as an alternative licensure option. This credential can only be earned at an approved institution of higher education.

If these criteria are met, then Multiple Measures of Content Competency does not apply for an alternative licensure entry candidate.

Alternative licensure candidates that do not meet the criteria above, may qualify for alternative licensure under Multiple Measures of Content Competency. Therefore, alternative teacher candidates may work with their approved alternative educator preparation program to utilize another content competency demonstration for their alternative teacher authorization. The information outlined above under [Components](#) and [Review Process](#) are resources on the steps and materials candidates need. After the CDE reviews the submitted materials and approval is granted, the alternative licensure program will be able to sign the Statement of Assurance (SOA) and the candidate will then qualify for alternative teacher authorization. Please note that if a candidate does not meet any of the criteria for alternative licensure outlined above, including the MM option, the [interim teacher authorization](#) option can be utilized.

Alternative Educator Preparation Program Exit Candidates with Alternative Licensure Authorization

Alternative licensure candidates completing an approved alternative educator preparation program can continue to qualify for an initial teacher license via a completed [Approved Verification Form](#) (APV), a degree-conferred transcript, and at least one (1) of the following:

- Praxis exam(s) that meets minimum score requirements,
- A bachelor's or higher degree in the content area from a regionally accredited college/university, or
- 24 semester hours of specific coursework (available to secondary, K-12, middle school endorsement areas only) with a minimum grade of B- or higher as outlined on [CDE Added Endorsement Worksheets](#)

- *Note:* Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) is not available as an alternative licensure option. This credential can only be earned at an approved institution of higher education.

If these criteria are met, then Multiple Measures of Content Competency does not apply to an alternative licensure entry candidate.

Alternative Educator Preparation Program Exit Candidates with Interim Teacher Authorization

Candidates enrolled in an approved alternative educator preparation program that had interim authorization and met all Praxis score requirements can have the APV completed by the alternative licensure educator preparation program as Multiple Measures of Content Competency does not apply. If a candidate with interim authorization is unable to meet the minimum Praxis score(s), they can submit for Multiple Measures of Content Competency for initial teacher licensure. The information outlined above under *Components* and *Review Process* are resources on the steps and materials candidates need.

Initial Teacher Licensure and Multiple Measures of Content Competency

Multiple Measures of Content Competency is for initial teacher licensure only. It encompasses the endorsement areas for candidates as follows:

- Elementary Education
- Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- Special Education Generalist
- Secondary, K-12, and Middle School

Many institutions offer opportunities for candidates to earn dual endorsements for initial licensure (i.e. special education generalist and CLD). CLD, however, is not reviewed using Multiple Measures of Content Competency. This endorsement will be added with program completion via the APV.

Multiple Measures of Content Competency requires candidates seeking licensure under this option to have all of the following:

- a bachelor's or higher degree,
- completed or be nearing completion of an approved educator preparation program, and
- submitted a completed Multiple Measures of Content Competency Worksheet and corresponding artifact(s) for review.

Candidates seeking initial teacher licensure under Multiple Measures of Content Competency are doing so as they do not meet the minimum Praxis score(s) but do meet the steps outlined above under sections titled *Components* and *Review Process* which also serve as a resource on the steps and materials candidates need.

Initial Teacher Licensure and Traditional Educator Preparation Program Exit Candidates

Initial licensure for candidates in traditional educator preparation programs that meet the minimum Praxis scores can have the APV completed by the educator preparation program as Multiple Measures of Content Competency does not apply. Candidates who are unable to meet minimum Praxis scores in all areas are able to submit for Multiple Measures of Content Competency for an initial teacher license. The

information outlined above under *Components* and *Review Process* are resources on the steps and materials candidates need.

Helpful Links

Below is a list of helpful links for Multiple Measures of Content Competency:

- [Multiple Measures of Content Competency Website](#)
 - [Colorado Traditional Candidate Information](#)
 - [Colorado Alternative Candidate Information](#)
- [Multiple Measures of Content Competency Worksheets](#)
- [Added Endorsements/Alternative License Worksheets](#)
- [COOL Login](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Praxis 5205/READ Act FAQ's

Is the Praxis 5205 still required?

The Colorado Department of Education wants all completers of approved educator preparation programs in elementary, early childhood education, special education and early childhood special education to have the READ Act designation. There are two components to this designation: scientifically and evidence-based reading content and an approved end-of-course assessment.

The READ Act designation is an employment requirement and educator preparation programs have a role in preparing candidates accordingly. The Praxis 5205 is used by educator preparation programs to assess reading-related learning as well as proactively meet employer requirements.

Can I use the CDE Pepper Course in lieu of my reading-related curriculum?

The Pepper course is a 45-hour CDE reading course that is focused on professional development around scientifically-based reading for current teachers. Those who successfully complete this course receive the READ Act designation on their license. The materials from this course may be able to augment a reading-related curriculum within an educator preparation program but must not replace it as it is for professional development for seasoned teachers versus the preparation of new and future educators.

Are there educator preparation programs that have been approved to give the READ Act designation?

Yes, there are some educator preparation programs that have worked with the CDE to have their curriculum and assessment(s) evaluated and approved for the READ Act designation on a teacher license.

How do I get my reading curriculum approved for the READ Act designation?

If you would like to have your reading curriculum and assessment reviewed for the READ Act designation, please email ReadActTraining@cde.state.co.us. The READ Act designation requires CDE approval for both content and assessment(s) as there are two components to this designation: scientifically and evidence-based reading content and an approved end-of-course assessment.

Is the Praxis 5205 mandated for licensure?

No, the Praxis 5205 is not mandated for licensure as it is a requirement for districts for their teachers in K-3. Therefore, it is an employment requirement for teachers. However, a strong reading curriculum is required for educator preparation programs with endorsements in elementary, early childhood education, special education and early childhood special education. The Praxis 5205 exam is an assessment tool that can be implemented by educator preparation programs as it is approved by SBE. Further, it fulfills the important role that educator preparation programs play in preparing candidates for employment as teachers as the READ Act designation is an employment requirement.

Can a candidate use Multiple Measures of Content Competency for reading competency and the READ Act designation?

In order to receive the READ Act designation candidates must have (1) scientifically and evidence-based reading content and (2) an approved end-of-course assessment. Many educator preparation programs utilize the Praxis 5205 as this is a SBE approved assessment used by CDE. Another option is to create an end-of-course (s) assessment for review by CDE (see above question 4). A candidate can use Multiple Measures of Content Competency for licensure purposes and will need to complete the [worksheet](#) and submit all supporting evidence via the process outlined [here](#).

I'm working with a future candidate who was an elementary teacher. This candidate is returning for special education and has already completed the CDE Pepper course. Does this candidate need to take Praxis 5205, as my program requires it?

In this scenario, the program can determine any transfer credit or transfer experiences that it may accept according to its policy and procedures. It is the purview of the educator preparation program to determine if any course requirements or assignments can be met by a candidate's previous material. Further, it is at the discretion of the program to determine if they would like to allow an exception to any program-required internal exams or assessments such as the Praxis 5205.

I thought CDE required the Praxis 5205 for licensure, is this correct?

The READ Act designation is a requirement of employment and under district purview. The PRAXIS 5205 fulfills this requirement and is also used as an approved assessment authorized by the State Board of Education. So, there are three ways the READ Act designation can be achieved: (1) the PRAXIS 5205; (2) the CDE Pepper course; and (3) a CDE approved curriculum and assessment(s) offered by select educator preparation programs.

Contact Information

For questions regarding Multiple Measures of Content Competency, please contact Educator Preparation at educator_preparation@cde.state.co.us.