



Connecticut Foundations of Reading Test— One of Three Requirements for Early Childhood and Elementary Education Teacher Certification

A major initiative in Connecticut's efforts to close the achievement gap is to improve students' reading skills, particularly in the early grades. In the fall of 2007, a Reading Summit was held with private and public advocates for children to coordinate State efforts to improve childhood literacy. This summit established as one of its recommendations that Connecticut require a test for prospective teachers in the teaching of reading.

Effective July 1, 2009, teacher candidates in Connecticut applying for an Integrated Early Childhood, NK-3 Endorsement (endorsement #113) or Elementary Education Grades K-6 Endorsement (endorsement #013) are required to take a pass the *Connecticut Foundations of Reading* test, a test of reading instruction knowledge and skills.

The Foundations of Reading test is administered by the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson. Candidates seeking the Integrated Early Childhood, NK-3 Endorsement or the Elementary Education Grades K-6 Endorsement will be required to take a pass this test, in addition to the current testing requirements as outlined on the Connecticut State Department of Education website at www.sde.ct.gov/sde (select "Certification" and then "Assessments" and then "Guide to Assessments for Educator Certification in Connecticut"). The test may also be required for reinstatement of other elementary or early childhood certificates after a lapse in certification.

ABOUT THE TEST

The Foundations of Reading test reflects scientifically based reading research and is aligned closely to State Reading standards as reflected in Connecticut's Blueprint for Reading Achievement (2000) and Beyond the Blueprint: *Literacy in Grades 4-12 and Across the Content Areas* (2007). The test assesses a candidate's proficiency in and depth of understanding of the subject of reading and writing development. The test is made up of 100 multiple-choice and 2 open-response (i.e., essay) items. Each multiple-choice item assesses knowledge or skills related to one of three major areas of reading instruction:

- Foundations of Reading Development
- Development of Reading Comprehension
- Reading Assessment and Instruction

A description of objectives can be accessed through this link:

http://www.ct.nesinc.com/PDFs/OBJ_CT_Foundations_Reading.pdf

The open-response items (in the "Integration of knowledge and Understanding" section) provide examinees with the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of content related to two or more of these areas. Responses to the open-response items are expected to be appropriate and accurate in the application of subject-matter knowledge, to provide high-quality and relevant supporting evidence, and to demonstrate a soundness of argument and understanding of the field.

TEST DESIGN

Subarea	Approximate Number of Multiple-Choice Items	Number of Open-Response Items
I. Foundations of Reading Development	43-45	
II. Development of Reading Comprehension	33-35	
III. Reading Assessment and Instruction	21-23	
IV. Integration of knowledge and Understanding		2
TOTAL TEST	100	2

TESTING PROGRAM INFORMATION

How can I learn more about this test? A website regarding the Foundations of Reading is available at www.ct.nesinc.com. The site contains an overview of the program, a description of the test, and information from the Department. As additional program materials become available – from test preparation materials and frequently asked questions to a list of test dates and sites – they will be added to the site.

When will the test be available? The test is administered in Connecticut on up to five test dates annually at several locations throughout the state.

How will test results be provided and when will they be available? Approximately five weeks after each test administration, test results will be provided to examinees, institutions of higher education identified to receive test results by examinees, and the Department of Education.

How much will it cost? Examinees will be asked to register and pay for the test via the Pearson website at www.ct.nesinc.com. The following fees will apply:

Registration Fee\$30 Test Fee.....\$100

For information regarding ALL certification requirements for early childhood and elementary education certification, visit the State website at www.sde.ct.gov/sde or contact the Certification Office via e-mail at teacher.cert@ct.gov or by telephone at (860) 713-6969.