The Texas Education Agency (TEA) adopts an amendment to §151.1001, concerning passing standards for educator certification examinations. The amendment is adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the May 17, 2019 issue of the Texas Register (44 TexReg 2445) and will not be republished. The adopted amendment specifies the satisfactory scores for the new Principal as Instructional Leader examination and the new Performance Assessment for School Leaders and updates the passing standards for several other examinations.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION: Texas Education Code, §21.048(a), requires the commissioner of education to establish the satisfactory levels of performance required on educator certification examinations and require a satisfactory level of performance on each core subject covered by an examination.

The amendment adopts passing standards for the new Principal as Instructional Leader certification examination and the new Performance Assessment for School Leaders. Most of the passing standards previously set by the commissioner have been maintained, but others have changed as follows.

Beginning July 29, 2019, passing standards will be updated for the following Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES) to reflect the average raw cut score based on all active forms of a test as changed by new test forms being introduced and/or some test forms being discontinued or revised:

- 801 Core Subjects EC-6 English Language Arts and Reading and the Science of Teaching Reading
- 802 Core Subjects EC-6 Mathematics
- 803 Core Subjects EC-6 Social Studies
- 804 Core Subjects EC-6 Science
- 113 English Language Arts and Reading/Social Studies 4-8
- 114 Mathematics/Science 4-8
- 115 Mathematics 4-8
- 806 Core Subjects 4-8: English Language Arts and Reading
- 808 Core Subjects 4-8: Social Studies
- 235 Mathematics 7-12
- 238 Life Science 7-12
- 231 English Language Arts and Reading 7-12
- 256 Journalism 7-12
- 177 Music EC-12
- 158 Physical Education EC-12
- 242 Technology Applications EC-12
- 272 Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources 6-12
- 273 Health Science 6-12
- 276 Business and Finance 6-12
- 184 American Sign Language EC-12
- 610 LOTE: French EC-12
- 611 LOTE: German EC-12
- 613 LOTE: Spanish EC-12
- 161 Special Education EC-12
- 182 Visually Impaired
- 283 Braille
- 154 English as a Second Language Supplemental
- 163 Special Education Supplemental
- 160 Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12
- 270 Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities for Trade and Industrial Education 6-12
- 153 Educational Diagnostician
- 068 Principal

The average passing standard is expressed as an average raw cut score of all active forms of a test or the minimum proficiency level. It is critical to note that the actual raw cut scores may vary slightly from form to form to account for differences in test item difficulty across forms and to ensure equitability.
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND AGENCY RESPONSES. The public comment period on the proposal began May 17, 2019, and ended June 17, 2019. Following is a summary of the public comment received and corresponding agency response.

Comment: Texas Woman's University commented that the standard for the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) should remain constant or be lowered. The commenter cited as rationale decreases in the number of teacher candidates attempting the assessment, the number of candidates receiving initial bilingual certifications, and the current educator candidate performance on domain four (written expression) of the current test.

Response: The agency disagrees. The amendment maintains the standard for the BTLPT examination constant. The bilingual certification is currently offered only as a supplemental, and certifications have increased over the past five years (from 1,223 certifications issued in 2014-2015 to 1,648 certifications issued in 2017-2018) in addition to the number of candidates taking the examination (from 2,886 test-takers in 2014-2015 to 3,116 test-takers in 2017-2018). The agency plans to convene stakeholder groups to consider alternative measures of language written expression for potential future implementation.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The amendment is adopted under Texas Education Code, §21.048(a), which requires the commissioner to determine the level of performance considered to be satisfactory on educator certification examinations and further authorizes the commissioner to require a satisfactory level of performance on each core subject covered by an examination.

CROSS REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The amendment implements Texas Education Code, §21.048(a).

§151.1001. Passing Standards.
(a) As required by the Texas Education Code, §21.048(a), the commissioner of education shall determine the satisfactory level of performance for each educator certification examination and require a satisfactory level of performance on each core subject covered by an examination. The figures in this section identify the passing standards established by the commissioner for educator certification examinations.
(b) The figures in this subsection identify the passing standards established by the commissioner for classroom teacher examinations.

(1) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for early childhood through Grade 6 examinations.
Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(1)

(2) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for Grades 4-8 examinations.
Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(2)

(3) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for secondary mathematics and science examinations.
Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(3)

(4) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for secondary English language arts and social studies examinations.
Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(4)

(5) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for speech and journalism examinations.
Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(5)

(6) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for fine arts examinations.
Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(6)

(7) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for health and physical education examinations.

Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(7)

(8) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for computer science and technology applications examinations.

Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(8)

(9) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for career and technical education examinations.

Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(9)

(10) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for bilingual examinations.

Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(10)

(11) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for languages other than English (LOTE) examinations.

Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(11)

(12) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for special education examinations.

Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(12)

(13) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for supplemental examinations.

Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(13)

(14) The figure in this paragraph identifies the passing standards for pedagogy and professional responsibilities examinations.

Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(b)(14)

(c) The figure in this subsection identifies the passing standards established by the commissioner for student services examinations.

Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(c)

(d) The figure in this subsection identifies the passing standards established by the commissioner for administrator examinations.

Figure: 19 TAC §151.1001(d)