

Ed Prep Policy Advisory January 2022



This advisory provides the most recent information regarding MTEL revisions through 2023, information about retired MTEs and licensure, and opportunities to participate on MTEL development committees.

Update on the Timeline for Implementation and MTEs being Revised

Revised Timeline

In collaboration with Evaluation Systems Group (ES) of Pearson, DESE began updating the MTEs in 2018 based on updated [MA Curriculum Frameworks](#) and [Subject Matter Knowledge Guidelines](#). As communicated in previous [advisories](#), the MTEL development timeline continues to be subject to change due to the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see the revised MTEL development timeline below. We will send out communications notifying you of exact dates as they become available and would advise candidates to continue to check the Evaluation Systems Group (ES) of Pearson [website](#) for the most up to date dates as well.

Below please find an updated operational timeline for these MTEL tests.

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MTEL Updates and Timeline



Revised Projected MTEL Test Development Schedule – January 2022					
Currently Operational	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F	Group G
	Operational Summer 2022	Operational Early Fall 2022	Operational Fall 2022	Operational Late Fall 2022	Operational Early 2023
Digital Literacy/Computer Science, 5-12 English Language Arts, 5-12 Foundations of Reading Mathematics, 5-8 Mathematics, 8-12	General Science, 5-8 Physics, 8-12 Technology/Engineering, 5-12	Mathematics, 1-6 Reading Specialist, All Levels	Biology, 8-12 Chemistry, 8-12 Earth & Space Science, 8-12 Middle School Math/Science, 5-8	Early Childhood, PK-2 Middle School Humanities (English/History), 5-8	General Curriculum, 1-6 History/Social Science, 5-12

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Score Reporting Information:

As noted on the MTEL website and as is standard with all newly revised MTEs, the first round of score reports for a revised test are delayed due to standard-setting activities and determination of qualifying scores by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Scores are released upon the completion of these activities.

We understand the impact that the delays can have on teacher candidates and so we continue to share information about the test development activities to make the process clear and to share additional information behind the delayed release of the score reports. We recommend that you advise candidates to schedule their testing registration based on when they will need a score report for the purposes of employment or other factors.

Once the test is operational, our partner, ES begins to collect data on candidate performance on the revised test. ES must collect enough test data to ensure that there is robust evidence for making a passing score recommendation. That collected data is then provided to a Qualifying Score Panel composed of up to 20 content experts, including currently practicing teachers, and educator preparation faculty.

At the Qualifying Score Conference, Panel members review the candidate data and additionally undergo a simulated test-taking activity in order to inform the overall score recommendation. You can find additional detail about this process in the MTEL Technical Manual here:

http://www.mtel.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_TechnicalManual_Development.html. Specifically, the section “Determination of Qualifying Scores” provides information about the score-setting process. The Qualifying Score Conference date is set in order to ensure that ES is able to collect enough performance data from candidates to inform the recommendation.

Following the Qualifying Score Conference, ES then calculates recommended performance levels for the multiple choice and open-response sections of each test based on the recommendations provided by the Qualifying Score Panel members which in turn informs the analysis and report for the Commissioner. This information is used by the Commissioner to determine the passing score for the test based upon the panel-based recommendations and other input.

This process can take several weeks following the Qualifying Score conference. Score reports are released in the next score report date after the passing score is determined by the Commissioner.

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Notice to Candidates and Use of Retired MTEL for Licensure

We will continue to update the MTEL site to ensure that the timing of when tests will be updated is clear to candidates. Use the dropdown at [this link](#) to see timeline information for each test.

Please note that only one version of an MTEL can be made available to individuals at any given time. As such, as soon as an updated version of an MTEL is live, the previous version will retire and will no longer be made available to candidates. If a candidate wishes to take the current version of the test, we recommend that you advise them to take the test as far in advance as possible from the times that the tests will be updated.

If a candidate takes and passes an MTEL that becomes retired before the individual has met other licensure requirements, they can still use the retired MTEL passing score towards earning their license. There is no expiration date on the validity of a passing score on an MTEL.

MTEL Committee Opportunities

We will continue to need volunteers to serve on committees for the development of each of these tests in the future. Some of these MTEL committees may be brought together virtually depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic at the time of the meetings.

We are especially interested in hearing from voices that have been historically underrepresented, particularly Black, Indigenous, LatinX, and Asian educators, and other educators of color. If you are interested in participating on an MTEL Committee, or would like to recommend committee members, you can learn more [here](#).