Foundations of Reading Test for Wisconsin - Updates 7/15/2013

As a result of the Wisconsin Read to Lead Task Force recommendations, a new statutory provision was created in 2011 ACT 166. The specific statute 118.19 (14) puts into place a required content test in Foundations of Reading for all Grade K-5 teachers, special education teachers, reading teachers, and reading specialists seeking initial licensure.

Foundations of Reading Test

Beginning on January 31, 2014, candidates in Wisconsin applying for an initial teaching license in grades Kindergarten through 5 or special education, or for a license as a reading teacher or reading specialist, as listed below, will be required to take and pass the Foundations of Reading test, a test of reading instruction knowledge and skills administered by the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson.

- Early Childhood – Regular Education (70–777)
- Early Childhood – Special Education (70–809)
- Early Childhood – Middle Childhood (71–777)
- Middle Childhood – Early Adolescence (72–777)
- Middle Childhood – Early Adolescence Cross Categorical (72–801)
- Middle Childhood – Early Adolescence Specific Learning Disabilities (72–811)
- Middle Childhood – Early Adolescence Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (72–830)
- Middle Childhood – Early Adolescence Cognitive Disabilities (72–810)
- Early Adolescence – Adolescence Cross Categorical (73–801)
- Early Adolescence – Adolescence Specific Learning Disabilities (73–811)
- Early Adolescence – Adolescence Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (73–830)
- Early Adolescence – Adolescence Cognitive Disabilities (73–810)
- Early Childhood-Adolescence Visual Impairments (74-825)
- Reading Teacher (316)
- Reading Specialist (17)

This requirement is in addition to the current content testing requirements for each license as outlined on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website at: http://tepdl.dpi.wi.gov/licensing/wisconsin-educator-testing-requirements

Wisconsin Website is Open for the Foundations of Reading Test

http://www.wi.nesinc.com/

The website includes all the practice testing materials, registration information, and policies for the Foundations of Reading Test.

Quick Facts About the Foundations of Reading Test:

Format	Computer-based test (CBT); 100 multiple-choice questions, 2 written assignments
Time	4 hours
Test Dates	By appointment, year round. Test appointments are available on a first-come, first served basis.
Test Sites	CBT sites are located nationwide.
Passing Score	Applicants for Wisconsin licensure on or after January 31, 2014 through-August 31, 2014 - passing score 229; Applicants for Wisconsin licensure on or after September 1, 2014 - passing score 240; Scores set July 11, 2013
Test Fee	$155 ($125 test fee, $30 registration fee)
Score Reporting	*If you test before the passing score is set:* you will receive a receipt of completion immediately after testing. Score reports will be released once a passing score has been set. *If you test after the passing score is set:* you will receive a receipt of completion immediately after testing. Your score report will be released within five (5) weeks of testing.
Testing Policies	When you register you must agree to abide by all rules. All policies are shares on the website.
Retake Policy	Examinees may retake a test or subtest. If you wish to retake a test, you must complete the registration process again. You must wait 30 days before retaking a test.
Score Reporting	Your test scores are reported to you, to the state through which you registered, and to any other state(s) and/or institution(s) that you indicated as a score recipient when you registered.
Getting score reports	Your score report will be e-mailed to you, if you requested this service when you registered. Score reports are also posted to your account for 45 days as PDF documents, which you may view, print, and save for your records. Your account also contains your complete testing history, including each test you've taken and the test date.
Preparation	The website includes resources to assist with test preparation.
Register & Info	http://www.wi.nesinc.com/

Key Dates

- March 28, 2013 – Wisconsin candidates may begin registering for test dates of May 13 or later
- May 13, 2013 – First test administration in Wisconsin
- July 11, 2013 – Passing scores set for Wisconsin
- January 31, 2014 – Applicants for a Wisconsin license in the areas affected will need to post a passing score of 229 to apply for licensure
- September 1, 2014 – Applicants for a Wisconsin license in the areas affected will need to post a passing score of 240 to apply for licensure

Wisconsin Passing Scores

Based on the results of a standard setting process conducted by Evaluation Systems of Pearson, the state superintendent has accepted their recommended passing score for Wisconsin as the initial passing score. The Foundations of Reading test for Wisconsin will be implemented in the same manner as the test was implemented in Massachusetts: an initial passing score will be used for a short time period followed by an escalation to a higher benchmark score. The following scores apply:

Initial Passing Score

Applicants who apply for Wisconsin Licensure on or after January 31, 2014 through August 31, 2014

Test		Test Section	Section Length	Panel-based Qualifying Score	Section Weight	**Passing Score**
90	Foundations of Reading	Multiple Choice	85	64	80%	**229**
		Open Response	2	11 of 16 points	20%	

Benchmark Passing Score

Applicants who apply for Wisconsin Licensure on or after September 1, 2014

Test		Test Section	Section Length	Panel-based Qualifying Score	Section Weight	**Passing Score**
90	Foundations of Reading	Multiple Choice	85	67	80%	**240**
		Open Response	2	12 of 16 points	20%	

The September 1 date was selected to correspond with the federal Title II Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) reporting window for educator preparation program completer data.

Information for Educator Preparation Programs

- The DPI provided Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson with the name of every Wisconsin Educator Preparation Program (EPP) that prepares candidates for licensure in the licenses affected by this test
- Pearson requested an institution code number for each EPP; we provided your HEOA Title II code number
- The registration information on the website has all of your programs included at this time
- In order to receive test results for their candidates, each EPP will need to provide Pearson with the name of an individual that should receive the scores and have access to the Online Institution Score Reporting System. In October, 2013 Pearson will provide training on using a results analyzer to review candidate data.
- Attached please find two additional resources from Pearson that they wanted to share with EPPs: *Alternative Testing Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities Procedures and Policies Manual*, and *The Foundations of Reading Test for Wisconsin Data Exchange Format*
- Below are links to some of the MTEL Foundations of Reading materials you may find of interest.
  The test objectives are provided here: http://www.mtel.nesinc.com/PDFs/MTELobjs_newfld90.pdf
  The full-length practice test may be found here:
  http://www.mtel.nesinc.com/PDFs/MA_FLD090_PRACTICE_TEST.pdf
  A complementary document to the practice test contains a set of item explanations. These may be found here:
  http://www.mtel.nesinc.com/PDFs/MA_FLD090_PT_appendix_13.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions

Will candidates who are adding on licenses need to take this test?

- The Foundations of Reading test is a content test. Initial licensure, additional licensure, and out-of-state licensure candidates must post passing scores on all the content tests in effect and required for the Wisconsin license they are seeking. Candidates applying for Wisconsin licensure on or after January 31, 2014 in any of the licenses affected by this test will need to post passing scores on this test.

Will candidate seeking an additional licensure need to take the reading test if it was not initially required?

- Candidates who are enrolled in an educator preparation program to complete an additional licensure in one of the affected licensure areas must post passing scores on this new test, if they apply for a Wisconsin license on or after January 31, 2014.

When will out-of-state applicants need to take this test?

- Out-of-state applicants applying for a Wisconsin license on or after January 31, 2014, will need to take the test and post passing scores in order to obtain Wisconsin licensure in the licenses affected.

Will candidates who are eligible for licensure (already completed an educator preparation program but have not applied for a license) need to take this test?

- Wisconsin educators who have already completed an educator preparation program will need to post passing scores on the test, if they apply for Wisconsin licensure on or after January 31, 2014. Educators that apply for Wisconsin licensure before January 31, 2014 will not need to post passing scores on this test.

Will the Wisconsin candidates who are student teaching Fall 2013 need to take this test?

- Wisconsin candidates who are student teaching Fall 2013 must complete a student teaching experience per 118.19 (3) that is a full semester following the cooperating school district's calendar. Wisconsin school districts complete their first semester of school in mid January; consequently, Fall 2013 student teachers will complete their program mid-January. Candidates will have a short window between completing their program and making application for a Wisconsin teaching license in the areas affected.
- Candidates that **apply for Wisconsin licensure before January 31, 2014 will not need** to post passing scores on this test.
- Candidates that **apply for Wisconsin licensure on or after January 31, 2014 will need** to post passing scores on this test.

Will candidates who seek licensure through an Institution of Higher Education license-based-on-equivalency credential review process need to take this test?

- The Foundations of Reading test is a content test. In every pathway to licensure in Wisconsin, candidates must post passing scores on all the content tests in effect and required for the Wisconsin license they are seeking. Candidates applying for Wisconsin licensure on or after January 31, 2014 in any of the licenses affected by this test will need to post passing scores on this test.

Act 166 Language

ACT 166 SECTION 21. 118.19 (14) of the statutes is created to read:

118.19 (14) (a) The department may not issue an initial teaching license that authorizes the holder to teach in grades kindergarten to 5 or in special education, an initial license as a reading teacher, or an initial license as a reading specialist, unless the applicant has passed an examination identical to the Foundations of Reading test administered in 2012 as part of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure. The department shall set the passing cut score on the examination at a level no lower than the level recommended by the developer of the test, based on this state's standards.

(c) Any teacher who passes the examination under par. (a) shall notify the department, which shall add a notation to the teacher's license indicating that he or she passed the examination.

ACT 166 SECTION 28. Initial applicability.
(1) TEACHING LICENSE. The treatment of section 118.19 (14) (a) of the statutes first applies to an application for a teaching license received by the department of public instruction on January 1, 2014.

During the Biennial Budget Session, a free-standing motion was made on 5/21/2013 during the Joint Finance Committee to delay the initial applicability date. As a result of the motion, the budget bill as modified by the Joint Finance Committee is as follows:

SECTION 2365r. 2011 Wisconsin Act 166, section 28 (1) is amended to read:
[2011 Wisconsin Act 166] Section 28 (1) TEACHING LICENSE. The treatment of section 118.19 (14) (a) of the statutes first applies to an application for a teaching license received by the department of public instruction on January ~~1~~ 31, 2014.