

## **RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO COMPONENTS OF THE ALABAMA LITERACY ACT REGARDING EDUCATOR ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the *Alabama Literacy Act*, enacted June 10, 2019, and now codified as Section 16-6G-1, *et seq.*, *Code of Alabama* (1975) affirms Alabama's commitment to improving K-3 reading proficiency by establishing specific guidelines for the licensure and certification of Alabama educators; and

**WHEREAS**, a passing score on a foundational reading assessment is a precondition for initial certification, via the Alabama-approved Educator Preparation Program Approach, and other certification approaches, in the areas of elementary education (K-6), early childhood education (P-3), and collaborative special education (K-6); and

**WHEREAS**, Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary, a foundational reading assessment administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS), is currently required for initial certification, via the Alabama-approved Educator Preparation Program Approach, and other certification approaches, in the areas of elementary education (K-6), early childhood education (P-3), and collaborative special education (K-6); and

**WHEREAS**, *Foundations of Reading 90* is a Massachusetts foundational reading assessment administered by the Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson. An updated version, *Foundations of Reading 190*, will be available for use by other states on August 23, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama statewide pass rate for Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary is 85% for the 2018-2019 scholastic year and 89% for the 2017-2018 scholastic year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Massachusetts statewide pass rate for *Foundations of Reading 90* is 63% for the 2018-2019 scholastic year and 64% for the 2017-2018 scholastic year; and

**WHEREAS**, a subcommittee of the Literacy Task Force established in Section 16-6G-3 of the *Alabama Literacy Act* has conducted a review of Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary and *Foundations of Reading 190*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education determines the *Foundations of Reading 190* assessment is more closely aligned with the science of reading:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby confirms its intention to discontinue the use of Praxis #5205 Teaching Reading: Elementary for certification in the areas of elementary education (K-6), early childhood education (P-3), and collaborative special education (K-6), and adopts, as a replacement, *Foundations of Reading 190*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That for the areas of elementary education (K-6), early childhood education (P-3), and collaborative special education teacher (K-6), *Foundations of Reading 190* will now be utilized as:

- An initial certification precondition for individuals unconditionally admitted to an approved program at an Alabama Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) on September 1, 2022, and thereafter;
- A certification requirement for initial Alabama certification based upon all certification approaches other than the completion of an EPP for applications received in the Educator Certification Section of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) on September 1, 2022, and thereafter;
- A reinstatement requirement for a lapsed certificate for certification applications received in the Educator Certification Section of the ALSDE on September 1, 2022, and thereafter; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Superintendent of Education is hereby directed to take any and all actions necessary to implement this resolution.

Done this 11th day of March 2021