

Understanding Your School Leadership Series Scores 2017–18

The School Leadership Series is a program of Educational Testing Service (ETS®). The School Leadership Series consists of the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA), the School Superintendent Assessment (SSA), and the Kentucky Specialty Test of Instructional and Administrative Practices. These tests were developed to provide a thorough, fair, and validated series of assessments for states to use

as a part of the licensure process for principals, superintendents, and other school leaders. They reflect the most current research and the professional judgment and experience of educators across the country, and are based on both a multistate job analysis study and a set of standards for school leaders, specified by the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC).

I Frequently Asked Questions about School Leadership Series Scores

Q. Did I pass?

- A. Your Test Taker Score Report will indicate a PASSED or NOT PASSED status for your highest score on each test taken. Your highest test score will be compared to the passing score used by the state in which the score recipient is located.

The passing scores used in the Test Taker Score Reports are the passing scores in effect, according to our records, at the time the score reports are produced. To obtain the most recent information that ETS has regarding the passing score required by each of the participating states, visit the SLS website at www.ets.org/sls. *ETS does not set passing scores for the tests. Each state that requires an SLS test sets its own passing score.* If you have additional questions regarding the establishment of passing scores or want to verify passing scores, contact the appropriate state certification office directly.

Q. How long are my scores available for reporting?

- A. Your test scores are available for reporting for 10 years. Note: Some states require that test scores be earned within a specified period of time.

Q. Who receives a copy of my score report?

- A. If you take an SLS test in Arkansas, District of Columbia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, or Virginia, your score is automatically reported to the state department of education. Additional situations under which scores are reported are listed in the *School Leadership Series Information Bulletin*. Aside from these, your scores will be sent only to you and the valid recipient institutions or agencies you designate to receive your scores.

Q. I need to take the test again. What should I study to improve my score?

- A. Your score report contains information about your performance on each section of the assessment. This information may help

you identify exercise types that offer the greatest opportunity to improve your scores. The School Leadership Series publishes a Study Companion for each test, which contains sample exercises, scoring guides, and scored responses. This information is available without charge and can be downloaded at www.ets.org/sls. Each Study Companion also includes a summary of the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) *Standards for School Leaders*. The assessments are closely aligned with these Standards. To prepare specifically for the School Leaders Licensure Assessment, you may find the *School Leaders Licensure Assessment Interactive Practice Test* a valuable tool. The practice test contains practice questions with correct answers and detailed explanations that present the basis for each correct answer. You may order the interactive Practice Test at www.ets.org/store. The best preparation for taking these assessments is the knowledge and skills you gained in college or university courses related to educational leadership or educational administration. This, coupled with your experience with school-related situations, provides a base for answering the School Leadership Series Assessments exercises.

Q. How can I send my scores to recipients other than those listed on my score report?

- A. Log into your account at www.ets.org/sls and click “Order Additional Score Reports” or download and complete the Additional Score Report Request Form at www.ets.org/sls and mail it with the appropriate fee to the address listed on the form.

Q. Can I have my score reviewed?

- A. Yes. The School Leadership Series score review service is described online at www.ets.org/sls or in the *School Leadership Series Information Bulletin*.

II How the Assessments Are Scored

School Leaders Licensure Assessment

The School Leaders Licensure Assessment is divided into two separately timed sections. The first section (2 hours 20 minutes) consists of 100 selected-response questions. The second section (1 hour 40 minutes) consists of seven constructed-response questions calling for written answers based on scenarios and sets of documents that an education leader might encounter. Each constructed-response question is rated independently by two scorers; your score for the question is the sum of their ratings. If the two ratings disagree by more than one point, your response is rated by a third scorer, whose rating is used to resolve the discrepancy. Under normal circumstances, each question is scored by a different pair of scorers, so that

many different scorers participate in the scoring of your test.

Your total raw score for the assessment is the sum of the number of correct responses in the selected-response section plus a weighted sum of your scores on the constructed-response section, rounded to the nearest whole number. The scoring weights are determined so that the selected-response section accounts for 70 percent of the maximum possible total score, and the constructed-response section accounts for 30 percent.

Scores for the assessment are reported on a scale that ranges from 100 to 200. Your reported score (scaled score) is computed from your raw score and includes a statistical adjustment to compensate for differences in difficulty between alternate editions of the assessment.

School Superintendent Assessment

The School Superintendent Assessment consists of 120 selected-response questions, which are scored as either correct or incorrect, and 3 constructed-response questions. Your response to each constructed-response question is rated independently by two scorers; your score for the question is the sum of their ratings. If the two ratings disagree by more than one point, your response is rated by a third scorer, whose rating is used to resolve the discrepancy. Under normal circumstances, each question is scored by a different pair of scorers, so that many different scorers participate in the scoring of your test.

Your total raw score for the assessment is the sum of the number of correct responses in the selected-response section plus a weighted sum of your scores on the constructed-response section, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Scores for the assessment are reported on a scale that ranges from 100 to 200. Your reported score (scaled score) is computed from your raw score and includes a statistical adjustment to compensate for differences in difficulty between alternate editions of the assessment.

Kentucky Specialty Test of Instructional and Administrative Practices

The Kentucky Specialty Test of Instructional and Administrative Practices consists of 120 selected-response questions. One hundred items contribute toward your total raw score; twenty are unscored pretest questions. Each question is scored as either correct or incorrect.

Scores for this assessment are reported on a scale that ranges from 100 to 200. Your reported score (scaled score) is computed from your raw score and includes a statistical adjustment to compensate for differences in difficulty between alternate editions of the test.

III Glossary of Terms

Average Performance Range — The range of scaled scores earned by the middle 50 percent of the test takers taking the test. It provides an indication of the difficulty of the test.

Decision Reliability — The tendency of pass/fail decisions made on the basis of test takers' test scores to be consistent from one edition of the test to another. ETS computes decision reliability statistics for a number of different combinations of test taker groups and passing scores.

Median — The score that separates the upper half of the test takers from the lower half.

Passing Score — A qualifying score for a single test that is set by the state.

Possible Score Range — The lowest to the highest scaled score possible on any edition of the test.

Raw Points — On the School Leaders Licensure Assessment and School Superintendent Assessment, the raw points refer to the ratings assigned by the scorers. Raw points are not adjusted for differences in the difficulty of the test questions.

Reliability — The tendency of individual scores to be consistent from one edition of the test to another.

Scaled Score — The reported score that determines whether a test taker has passed the test. Scaled scores are derived from raw scores and take into account the difficulty of the test form administered.

Score Interval — The number of points separating the possible score levels. If the score interval is 10, only scores divisible by 10 are possible.

Standard Error of Measurement — A statistic that is often used to describe the reliability of the scores of a group of test takers. A test taker's score on a single edition of a test will differ somewhat from the score the test taker would get on a different edition of the test. The more consistent the scores from one edition of the test to another, the smaller the standard error of measurement. If a large number of test takers take a test for which the standard error of measurement is 6 points, about two-thirds of the test takers will receive scores within 6 points of the scores that they would get by averaging over many editions of the test. The standard error of measurement can be estimated from test takers' responses to exercises of the same type within a single edition of the test.

Standard Error of Scoring — This statistic describes the extent to which different scorers tend to assign different ratings to the same response. The more consistent the scoring process, the smaller the standard error of scoring. If a large number of test takers take a test for which the standard error of scoring is 4 points, about two-thirds of the test takers will receive scores that are within 4 points of the scores they would receive if their responses were scored by all possible scorers. The standard error of scoring for the School Leadership Series can be computed from the two ratings of test takers' responses to exercises from a single administration of the test.

Validity — The extent to which test scores actually reflect what they are intended to measure.

IV Summary Statistics

Test Name	Possible Score Range	Score Interval	Number of Test Takers	Median	Average Performance Range	Standard Error of Measurement	Standard Error of Scoring
Kentucky Specialty Test of Instructional and Administrative Practices (6015)	100–200	1	1,160	172	165–182	4.9	0.0
School Leaders Licensure Assessment (6011)	100–200	1	17,748	176	169–181	4.8	1.9
School Superintendent Assessment (6021)	100–200	1	1,909	169	164–175	6	2.4

Note: Section III, Glossary of Terms, provides definitions for the statistical categories provided. In Section IV, Summary Statistics, the “Number of Test Takers,” “Median,” and “Average Performance Range” were calculated from the records of test takers who took the tests between August 2014 and July 2017. If a test taker took the test more than once in this period, only the most recent score was used.

V Reliability of Classification for Praxis School Leadership Tests

The following tables show the estimated statistics describing the accuracy and consistency of classifications made by different user states on the basis of scores on both Praxis School Leadership tests (6011 and 6021). The analyses are based on scaled scores from test takers who took the tests in the 2013-2014 testing year. A brief explanation of some of the important terms in the tables is provided below.

1. **Cut Score:** The minimum score that a test taker must obtain to get certified in a particular subject area.
2. **Absolute Standardized Difference between Mean and Cut Score:** This value shows the difference between the mean score and the cut score, expressed in standard-deviation units.
3. **Accurately Classified (Use Test):** This value shows the extent to which the decisions made on the basis of a test would agree with the decisions made from all possible forms of the test without benefit of practice (i.e., an estimate of the examinee true score).

4. **Accurately Classified (Pass All):** This value provides an estimate of the reliability of classification if all examinees were allowed to pass regardless of their scores.
5. **Consistently Classified:** This value shows the extent to which decisions made on the basis of one form of a test would agree with the decisions made on the basis of an alternate form of the same test.

The percentages of test takers correctly classified or consistently classified tend to increase as the difference in the mean score and the cut score increases. When the mean score is much larger or smaller than the cut score, the number of test takers at or near the cut score is small. With fewer test takers in the cut score region, the number of test takers who could be inaccurately classified is decreased thereby increasing the percentage of test takers who are correctly and/or consistently classified.

Summary and classification accuracy and consistency statistics for Praxis Tests

Test	Test Format	Score Range	Sample Size*	Mean (SD)	State	Cut Score	Abs. Stnd Diff. Between Mean and Cut Score	CSEM at or near Cut score	State Reliability Estimate	Accurately Classified		Consistently Classified
										Use Test	Pass All	
School Leaders Licensure Assessment (6011)	Multiple Choice/ Constructed Response	100-200	701	172.3 (9.74)	TN	160	1.2607	5.30	0.7622	.941	.8931	.915
			951	174.1 (10.29)	NJ	163	1.0786	5.38	0.7871	.934	.8640	.905
			418	169.0 (10.24)	MS	169	0.0002	4.87	0.7848	.852	.5620	.795

Test	Test Format	Score Range	Sample Size*	Mean (SD)	State	Cut Score	Abs. Stnd Diff. Between Mean and Cut Score	CSEM at or near Cut score	State Reliability Estimate	Accurately Classified		Consistently Classified
										Use Test	Pass All	
School Superintendent Assessment (6021)	Multiple Choice/ Constructed Response	100-200	125	168.2 (8.81)	AR	160	0.9352	6.35	0.5452	.863	.8300	.811
			444	167.2 (8.65)	NJ	160	0.8333	6.30	0.5277	.865	.8159	.807
			371	170.0 (8.39)	PA	160	1.1881	6.40	0.4979	.914	.8873	.871

Note: All Measurements are reported in the Scaled Score metric.

CSEM: Conditional Standard Error of Measurement.

*Using most recent score during the October 2013 through August 2014 administrations.

