

DRAFT CHANGES TO SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE

PUBLIC COMMENT: WWW.SURVEYGIZMO.COM/S3/3620828/DRAFT-PUBLIC-COMMENT-SMK-UPDATES

Subject matter knowledge requirements (SMKs) outline the minimum level of content and pedagogical skills Massachusetts educators are expected to hold. SMKs establish the content assessed in Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure ([MTEL](#)) and guide content-area coursework for educator preparation programs. SMKs are aligned to [Massachusetts curriculum frameworks](#).

Massachusetts regulation [603 CMR 7.06](#) requires a public comment period of at least thirty days prior to any changes to the guidelines where SMKs are published. More information on the 2017 proposed changes is available at [www.doe.mass.edu/edprep](http://WWW.DOE.MASS.EDU/EDPREP).

ELEMENTARY

CURRENT SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS 2011-2016

ELEMENTARY, LEVELS 1-6

(a) The following topics will be addressed on the **Foundations of Reading** test:

1. Reading theory, research, and practice.
 - a. Knowledge of the significant theories, practices, and programs for developing reading skills and reading comprehension.
 - b. Phonemic awareness and phonics: principles, knowledge, and instructional practices.
 - c. Diagnosis and assessment of reading skills using standardized, criterion-referenced, and informal assessment instruments.
2. Development of a listening, speaking, and reading vocabulary.
3. Theories on the relationships between beginning writing and reading.
4. Theories of first and second language acquisition and development.

(b) The following topics will be addressed on the **General Curriculum** test:

1. English.
 - a. Children's and young adult literature.
 - b. Adult literature, classical and contemporary works.
 - c. Genres, literary elements, and literary techniques.
 - d. Nature, history, and structure of the English language: lexicon and grammar.
 - e. Approaches and practices for developing skill in using writing tools.
 - f. Writing process and formal elements of writing and composition.
2. Mathematics.
 - a. Basic principles and concepts important for teaching elementary school mathematics in the following areas:
 - i. Number and operations (the foundation of topics in 603 CMR 7.06 (7) (b) 2. a. ii.- iv.).
 - ii. Functions and algebra.
 - iii. Geometry and measurement.
 - iv. Statistics and probability.
 - b. Candidates shall demonstrate that they possess both fundamental computation skills and comprehensive, in-



depth understanding of K-8 mathematics. They must demonstrate not only that they know how to do elementary mathematics, but that they understand and can explain to students, in multiple ways, why it makes sense.

c. The Commissioner, in consultation with the Chancellor of Higher Education, shall issue guidelines for the scope and depth of knowledge expected in mathematics, described in 603 CMR 7.06 (7) (b) 2 a. and b.

3. History and Social Science.

a. Major developments and figures in Massachusetts and U.S. history from colonial times to the present.

b. Major developments and figures in world history, with stress on Western civilization. c. Basic economic principles and concepts.

d. Basic geographical principles and concepts.

e. U.S. political principles, ideals, founding documents, institutions, and processes, their history and development.

4. Science and Technology/Engineering.

a. Basic principles and concepts of the life sciences appropriate to the elementary school curriculum.

b. Basic principles and concepts of the physical sciences appropriate to the elementary school curriculum.

c. Principles and procedures of scientific inquiry.

d. History of major scientific and technological discoveries or inventions. e. Safety issues related to science investigations.

(c) The following topics **shall be included in an approved program** but will not be addressed on a written test of subject matter knowledge:

1. Science laboratory work.

2. Child development.

a. Basic theories of cognitive, social, emotional, language, and physical development from childhood through adolescence.

b. Characteristics and instructional implications of moderately and severely disabling conditions.

3. Basic principles and concepts in each of the visual and performing arts (art, music, drama/theater, dance).

4. Basic principles and practices in physical education.

5. Basic principles and practices related to personal and family health.

DRAFT CHANGES TO SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS 2017

ELEMENTARY, LEVELS 1-6

The following topics will be addressed on the **Foundations of Reading** test:

*SEE OUR **FOUNDATIONS OF READING** SUMMARY FOR DRAFT CHANGES.*

The following topics will be addressed on the **General Curriculum** test:

*SEE OUR **GENERAL CURRICULUM** SUMMARY FOR DRAFT CHANGES.*



The following topics **shall be included in an approved program**, but, will not be addressed on a subject matter knowledge test:

(a) Child development.

1. Basic theories of cognitive, social, emotional, language, and physical development from childhood through adolescence.
2. Characteristics and instructional implications of moderately and severely disabling conditions.
3. Knowledge of developing literacy and language through intentional play and cooperative group work.

(b) Basic principles and concepts in each of the visual and performing arts (visual art, music, drama/theater, dance).

(c) Basic principles and practices in physical education.

(d) Basic principles and practices related to personal and family health.

(e) Basic principles and concepts for digital literacy and computer science in the following areas:

1. Computing and society
2. Digital tools and collaboration
3. Computing systems
4. Computational thinking

