



# MTEL Alternatives and Prep Program Flexibilities

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is running a pilot program to study alternative options for the MTEL assessments required for educator licensure. [Massachusetts G.L. Ch. 71 § 38G](#) requires an assessment of communication and literacy skills and subject knowledge as part of the requirement for an educator license.

FEBRUARY 14, 2022

## MASSACHUSETTS TESTS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE (MTEL) PILOT

In October 2020, the [Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the regulatory pilot](#) with three categories of alternative options. Any alternative assessment option completed between October 20, 2020 and June 30, 2024 may satisfy the requirements for a license application.

<a href="#">Communications and Literacy Alternatives</a>	Candidates will have multiple test-based options to satisfy the ComLit requirement for licensure.
<a href="#">Subject Matter Knowledge Alternative</a>	Candidates may be eligible for alternative or supplementary assessments to satisfy content area knowledge assessment requirements. See <a href="#">MTEL Flex</a> .
<a href="#">Subject Matter Attestation</a>	Candidates enrolled in participating preparation programs may be eligible for the program faculty to attest to the candidates subject matter knowledge in lieu of a passing MTEL score.

## MTEL REGISTRATION, TEST PREP & ACCOMMODATIONS

All Academic and Vocational Technical Educator license applications require passing scores on [one or more MTEL assessments](#). The [specific required MTELS and supporting documents](#) vary by the license type, field and grade level. Candidates for licensure must first create an account in [ELAR to obtain a MEPID number](#) which is required to [register for MTELS](#). Most MTELS and alternative options offer a [remote testing option](#).

A limited number of [alternative testing arrangements](#), including extended time, are available for eligible candidates. As of September 2020, candidates for whom [English is not a first language may request additional time](#) on most MTEL assessments.

Information on [test preparation courses is available from DESE](#). The MTEL website offers [no-cost test preparation materials](#) including study guides, tutorials and practice tests. Candidates may take MTELS in any order and are not required to wait until a degree is completed or enrolled in a preparation program.

## EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM FLEXIBILITIES

Completion of an approved educator preparation program is required for Academic licensure. As part of the regulatory pilot program, approved preparation programs may elect to offer the [Subject Matter Attestation](#) for eligible candidates.

A [2022 advisory outlines program support options](#) available to candidates who are **working under an Emergency license** or have experience as a **paraprofessional**. Programs may allow for certain coursework to be waived or field-based requirements reduced depending on an educator’s prior coursework completion and school-based experience. Regardless of prior employment history, all Academic educator licenses require that candidates complete an [approved educator preparation program](#) to obtain an Initial license.

A [2020 advisory](#) from the Office of Educator Preparation also reminded approved preparation programs that MTELS are a requirement for *licensure* and not for *program completion*.

Note: The information in this document is for reference purposes only. Please check the specific requirements for your license(s) at [www.doe.mass.edu/licensure](http://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure).

MTA members may request licensure assistance by sending an email to [licensure@massteacher.org](mailto:licensure@massteacher.org).

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## ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS AS OF FEBRUARY 2022

<b><u>Communications and Literacy Skills</u></b>	<b><u>Praxis Core - Massachusetts Communication and Literacy</u></b>	<b><u>National Evaluation Series - Essential Academic Skills (NES-EAS)</u></b>	<b><u>Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA)</u></b>	<b><u>Washington Educator Skills Tests (WEST-B)</u></b>
<b>Note:</b> <u>Passing scores from two different pilot subtests will be accepted.</u>	Communications and Literacy: Reading subtest Communications and Literacy: Writing subtest	NES-EAS: Reading NES-EAS: Writing	MoGEA: Reading Comprehension & Interpretation subtest MoGEA: Writing subtest	WEST-B: Reading subtest WEST-B: Writing subtest
<b><u>English</u></b>	<b><u>MTEL Flex- English</u></b> Taken English after Oct 20, 2020, with scaled score between 230-239			
<b><u>English As a Second Language</u></b>	<b><u>MTEL Flex – ESL</u></b> Taken ESL after Oct 20, 2020, with scaled score between 229 -239.	<b><u>Subject Matter Attestation</u></b> Bridgewater State	<b><u>Subject Matter Attestation</u></b> Merrimack College	<b><u>Subject Matter Attestation</u></b> Westfield State
<b><u>Foundations of Reading</u></b>	<b><u>MTEL Flex – Foundations of Reading</u></b> Taken Foundations of Reading after Oct 20, 2020, with scaled score between 231-239.	<b><u>Subject Matter Attestation</u></b> Bridgewater State	<b><u>Subject Matter Attestation</u></b> Merrimack College	
<b><u>General Curriculum Math Subtest</u></b>	<b><u>MTEL Flex – Math Subtest</u></b> Taken General Curriculum Math Subtest after Oct 20, 2020, with scaled score between 227 - 239.			
<b><u>General Curriculum Multi Subject</u></b>	<b><u>MTEL Flex- Multi Subject Subtest</u></b> Taken Multi-Subject Subtest after Oct 20, 2020, with scaled score between 227-239.			
<b><u>History</u></b>	<b><u>MTEL Flex - History</u></b> Must have taken History after Oct 20, 2020, with scaled score between 231-239.			
<b><u>Music</u></b>		<b><u>Subject Matter Attestation</u></b> Bridgewater State		
<b><u>Spanish</u></b>	<b><u>MTEL Flex- Spanish</u></b> Must have taken Spanish after Oct 20, 2020, with scaled score between 229-239.			

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