



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

DATE:

July 25, 2025

NUMBER:

25-10

SUBJECT: AB 121 IMPLEMENTS REVISED RICA PASSING SCORE EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 1, 2015

Summary:

This Program Sponsor Alert provides information for educator preparation programs that will have individuals who, based on the application of the new minimum passing standard to the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) from July 1, 2015, forward, might now seek recommendations for a preliminary credential. The 10-year validity rule for exam scores will be applied to the original date the candidate received the score that is now aligned to the new minimum passing standard. Candidates who now have a passing score on the RICA will receive an email from the examination vendor indicating their passing status. Programs will receive a spreadsheet from the examination vendor indicating the candidates who now have a passing score.

Key Provisions:

[Assembly Bill 121 \(Chap. 8, Stats. 2025\)](#) includes language enabling the Commission to apply the new minimum passing standard adopted at its [October 2024](#) meeting to individuals who took any version of the RICA on or after July 1, 2015, and received a score of 198 or higher for the written versions or 197 or higher for the video version.

The Commission's examination vendor, Evaluation Systems group of Pearson (ES), is contacting all qualifying individuals in its system to inform them of the new passing status. As stated in the [October 2024 Agenda Item 4C](#), the group that qualifies includes all individuals who scored 198 or above on the RICA written version or 197 or above on the RICA video version. New score reports will not be issued to these individuals. Instead, an email will be sent to these individuals at the email address on file in the ES system, informing them of their qualifying status. These individuals may take this official correspondence to a Commission-approved educator preparation program to request they be recommended for the appropriate preliminary credential based on the program they completed. ES will also send a spreadsheet to each

program that identifies any of the programs' current or past candidates that now have a passing score on the RICA. Programs will also be able to verify the candidates' new passing score in Results Analyzer. **Though the Pass/Fail Status will not be updated**, programs can verify passing status by looking at the RICA score and not the Pass/Fail status. If the individual has a score of 198 or higher for the RICA written or a 197 or higher for the RICA video, the program may proceed with a credential recommendation.

In some cases, a program may deem an individual's program completion to be outside the institution's window for credential recommendation. In these cases, individuals may ask the program to provide an [Institution's Evaluation for Staff Appeal \(RGA-16\)](#) to verify that the individual completed the program requirements in place at the time they were enrolled. If a program refuses to complete the RGA-16 for an individual, they may seek a program completion evaluation from another Commission-approved program.

Education Specialist Credential Candidates Only

Individuals who completed all requirements for a Preliminary Education Specialist: Mild/Moderate Disabilities (MMD) or Moderate/Severe Disabilities (MSD) credential program except for RICA, and now meet the new passing score, may still be recommended for these credentials up to June 30, 2026 (Coded Correspondence 22-03). After the June 30, 2026 date, this option will no longer be available. Instead, individuals seeking a Preliminary Education Specialist Mild to Moderate Support Needs (MMSN) or Extensive Support Needs (ESN) credential will need to complete any current program requirements that have not been met. Once they have met these requirements, they may be recommended for a credential.

Important Dates:

July 1, 2015 – Candidates who received a score of 198 or higher for the written versions or 197 or higher for the video version of the RICA on or after this date may apply it toward an appropriate credential. As a reminder, passing scores must be used for certification purposes within ten years of the original passing test date.

June 30, 2026 – Final date for candidates to be recommended for old Education Specialist: Mild/Moderate Disabilities or Moderate/Severe Disabilities credentials.

Background:

At its October 2024 meeting, the Commission approved a new minimum passing standard for the RICA examination. Accordingly, the new passing score was set at 198 or higher for the written versions or 197 or higher for the video version. The Commission also approved the application of the new standard to individuals who took any version of the exam after July 1, 2015.

AB 121 provided the final authorization to enable the Commission to apply the new minimum passing standard adopted at its October 2024 meeting to candidates for preliminary Multiple Subject or Education Specialist credentials who received a score of 198 or higher on any version of the RICA since July 1, 2015.

Sources:

[Assembly Bill 121 \(Chap. 8, Stats. 2025\)](#)

[Agenda Item 4C: October 2024](#)

[Coded Correspondence 22-03](#)

Contact Information:

Contact Information for the Professional Services Division is available at the [Professional Services Contact webpage](#).