



New York State Board of Regents  
Dr. John B. King, Jr.  
Commissioner of Education  
The State Education Department  
The University of the State of New York / Albany, NY 12234  
Office of Communications



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### **Commissioner King Announces Scores Needed to Pass Teacher and Leader Certification Examinations**

State Education Commissioner John B. King, Jr. today announced the scores needed to pass the four components of the new Teacher and Leader Certification Examinations (Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST), the Educating All Students test (EAS), and the Revised September 2013 School Building Leader (SBL) – Part I, and the Revised September 2013 School Building Leader (SBL) Part II assessment).

In 2009, the Board of Regents approved a number of initiatives to transform teaching and learning and school leadership in New York State. One of those initiatives was to strengthen the examinations for the certification of teachers and school leaders. These certification examination changes were included in the state's successful Race to the Top application in 2010. These changes were communicated to schools of education in 2010.

"The new certification examinations reflect the Board of Regents' strong commitment to both improving teacher and leader preparation and supporting schools of education as they review their programs for alignment with the current needs of school districts," King said. "We owe it to our candidates to make sure they're fully prepared to help their future students develop the skills they'll need to be successful in college and careers."

The New York State Education Department completed the process of standard setting for the ALST, EAS and SBL. For the EAS and ALST, standard setting panels made up of certified teachers, school building leaders and higher education faculty were charged with recommending the minimum level of knowledge, skills and abilities a teacher (and leader on the EAS) needs in order to be competent in the classroom and positively contribute to student learning. For the SBL- Part I and SBL – Part II, panels made up of school building and district level leaders and higher education faculty were charged with recommending the minimum level of knowledge, skills, and abilities a school building leader needs in order to be a competent educational leader and positively contribute to student learning. This "cut score," or *standard*, serves as the minimum threshold needed to pass the examinations for certification purposes.

Panelists were also asked to recommend a standard that represents mastery of the skills, knowledge and abilities necessary for effective teaching on the ALST and EAS and effective leadership on the EAS and SBL Part I and SBL Part II. This "mastery cut score" will not be used in determining whether a candidate has passed the certification examinations. Rather, the mastery cut score will provide a rigorous, aspirational goal for programs and candidates – a high

benchmark to strive towards. Identifying this mastery standard provides a common point of reference across programs to inform practice, guide professional development, and evaluate needs and strengths.

In December, the cut scores recommended by panelists from the ALST, EAS, SBL – Part I, and SBL – Part II were presented to the Commissioner and Board of Regents for approval. Based on those conversations, the Commissioner and the Board of Regents have accepted the recommended cut scores from the New York State standards setting panels and technical advisors. Scale Scores will be reported on a 400-600 scale for each exam. The final minimum and mastery cut scores for the operational examinations are as follows:

<b>Certification Examination</b>	<b>Level 1 Scale Score</b>	<b>Level 2 Scale Score</b>
Educating All Students	520	563
Academic Literacy Skills Test	520	563
Revised (September 2013) School Building Leader, Part I	520	544
Revised (September 2013) School Building Leader, Part II	520	548