

# ADOPTION PROCESS FOR ETS PRAXIS TESTS

## Who is ETS?

Educational Testing Service (ETS) was founded in 1947 when the American Council on Education, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and the College Entrance Examination Board formed an independent nonprofit organization. ETS develops, administers and scores more than 50 million assessment tests annually in more than 180 countries. In addition to assessments, ETS conducts educational research, analysis and policy studies and develops a variety of customized services and products for teacher certification, English language learning, and elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education.

## What is a Praxis Test?

Praxis tests measure test takers' knowledge and skills. The tests are used for licensing and certification of educators and include:

- **Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) Tests**

Designed to provide assessments that measure the skills and content knowledge of candidates entering teacher preparation programs.

- **Praxis Subject Assessments**

Measure subject-specific content knowledge, as well as general and subject specific teaching skills needed for beginning teachers.

- **Praxis Content Knowledge for Teaching (CKT) Assessments**

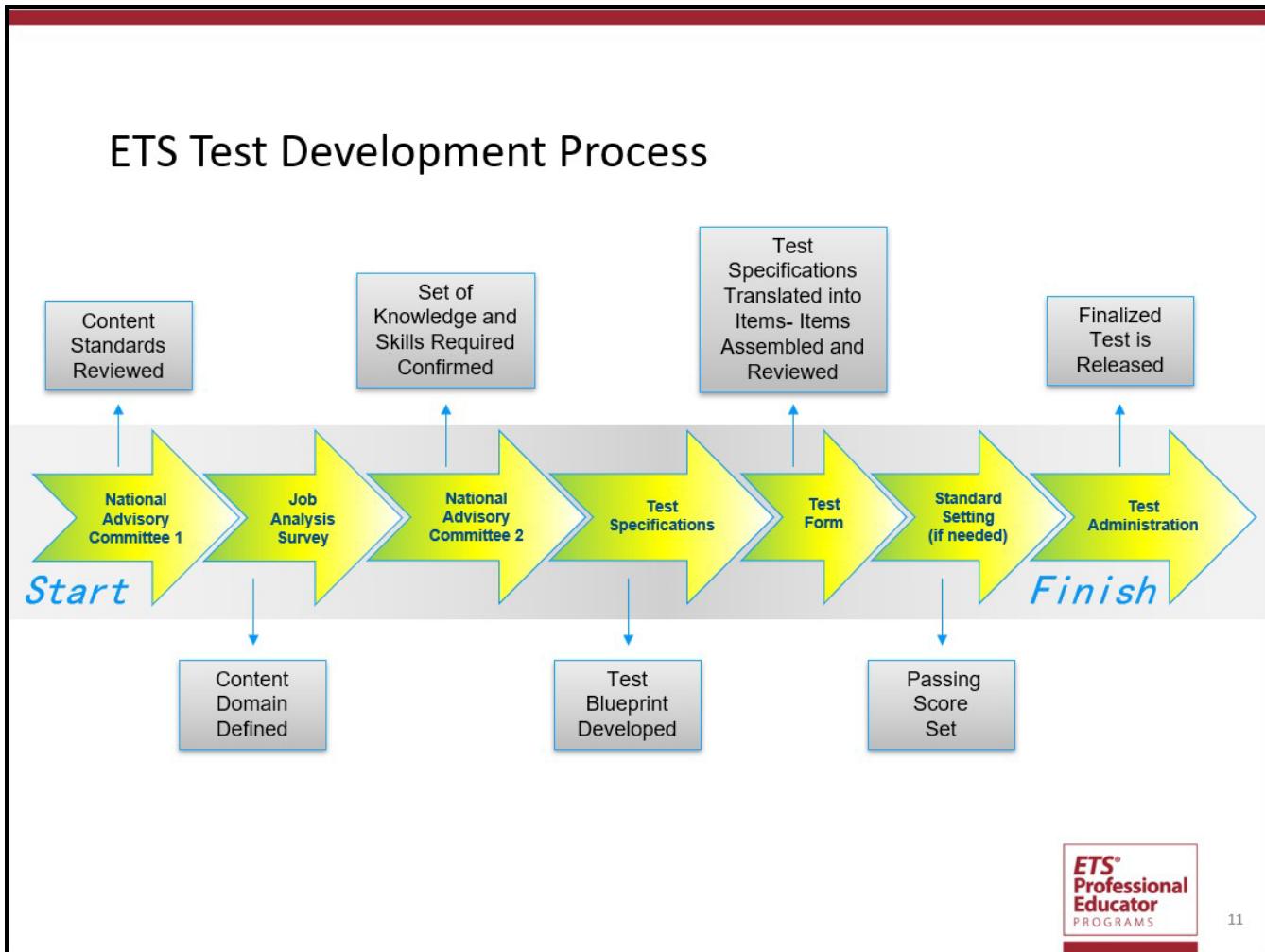
Measure subject-specific content knowledge, with a focus on specialized content knowledge used in elementary school teaching.

- **Praxis Performance Assessment (PPAT) and Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)**

Designed to assess knowledge and understanding of education practices foundational to beginning a career as a professional educator. The PPAT is an evidence-centered assessment which features four tasks and offers performance indicators of teacher effectiveness in the classroom. The assessment embeds teaching and clinical experiences with both summative and formative assessments.

## How is the Praxis Test Developed?

A multi-step process is used to develop each Praxis test. During each step, states are asked to nominate educators to participate on the various committees.



## What is a Multistate Standard-Setting Study?

This process occurs when new and regenerated tests require new passing scores. According to the ETS website, this approach convenes practitioner panels to recommend a passing score for states to consider. The panels simulate a test-taking experience prior to recommending a passing score. The panels also confirm that the content is important and relevant to entry-level practice. Each state can then set their own passing score based on the recommended cut score.

## **How does this process work in South Dakota?**

- Each time a test is regenerated ETS asks SDDOE if South Dakota is (1) interested in the test, and (2) would like to nominate educators to participate on the committees and standard setting studies.
- If the test is currently used by SDDOE, or stakeholders are interested in using it in the future, then ETS is notified SDDOE would like to participate in all activities.
- ETS notifies SDDOE when nominations are being accepted for participation on the National Advisory Committees and Standard Setting Studies.
- SDDOE forwards information about the nomination process to:
  - Deans of Education at all public and private universities so they can forward to interested faculty.
  - SDDOE staff are asked to nominate K-12 educators.
- ***Process Option 1:*** Following the Multi-state standard setting study SDDOE invites all universities to send representatives to participate in the recommendation for the South Dakota cut score. All higher education faculty and K-12 educators who participated in the studies are also invited to attend this meeting.
  - Participation can be in-person or by phone
  - All individuals present at this meeting can review the live test
  - A discussion is held regarding the recommended cut score set by the multi-standard setting study and whether this cut score should be used or if it would be better to go lower or higher. This becomes the South Dakota recommended cut score.
  - The South Dakota recommended cut score is presented to the South Dakota Board of Education Standards who approves the cut score or recommends a different cut score.
- ***Process Option 2:*** Individuals participating on the panels are contacted and asked, based on their knowledge of the test, their recommend for South Dakota. The tests are also discussed at the quarterly University Certification Officers (UCOs) meeting and they are asked if they have any concerns with the tests and the recommended cut scores.
- The South Dakota recommended cut score is presented to the South Dakota Board of Education Standards who approves the cut score or recommends a different cut score.