

New Basic Skills Test Design

- The Basic Skills test will have a new design and score-reporting model beginning in September 2010.
- Each sub area—Reading Comprehension, Language Arts, Mathematics, and Writing—will be scored independently as a separate sub test.
- A passing score must be achieved on each sub test in order to complete the Basic Skills testing requirement.
- Scores on Basic Skills sub tests can be “banked,” and an individual will not be required to take a sub test again once he or she has achieved a passing score.
- The writing score will continue to be a result of focused, holistic scoring.
- Just as they currently are, all scores will be converted to a scaled score of 100-300, and 240 or above will be required for passing.
- Test scores from the previous Basic Skills test model (096) cannot be applied to fulfill passing requirements established under the new model.
- Any individual who has attempted the Illinois Basic Skills test without passing it shall be required to pass it in order to qualify for an Illinois certificate.
- The new test code for Basic Skills is 300.
- Individuals may take all four sub tests or any combination of the individual sub tests during a single test administration.
- The examinee must decide at the time of the test whether he or she wants to take all four sub tests or individual sub test(s) during that test administration.
- The score report for the Basic Skills test has been redesigned to indicate which sub tests have been passed and when all four sub tests have been passed.
- Each test administration of the Basic Skills test in which an examinee participates shall count toward the five-time testing limit regardless of the number of sub tests the examinee includes as part of that particular test administration.
- Additional information is available on the Educator Certification Web site at <http://www.isbe.net/certification> and the Illinois Certification Testing System (ICTS) Web site at <http://www.icts.nesinc.com>.