

WEST & NES Information & Resources

WHY DO I NEED TO TAKE THESE TESTS?

The Washington State Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) requires any teacher certification applicants in an alternative route program to attempt the basic skills and subject matter assessments prior to starting the program, and to pass the assessments prior to program completion. To find out more about this requirement, refer to the [PESB website](#). In Washington State, these assessments are the Washington Educator Skills Tests (WEST) and National Evaluation Series (NES) tests. Refer to the WEST website for testing details: <http://www.west.nesinc.com/Home.aspx>.

WHAT TESTS DO I NEED TO TAKE?

Teacher certification applicants must take the following tests before program admission:

- The **WEST-Basic (WEST-B)**, which includes sections on Reading, Mathematics and Writing.
 - There are acceptable alternatives to taking the WEST-B, including providing ACT or SAT scores. Refer to [PESB's WEST-B alternatives webpage](#) for details on all alternatives.
 - There are no longer passing score ranges required for the WEST-B test.
- The **WEST-Endorsement (WEST-E) or NES test** in desired endorsement area. If applying for a dual endorsement program, you only need to take the WEST-E test (SPED or ELL) by the application deadline, and you can take the NES test (Elementary Education) at a later date.
 - [WEST-E Special Education \(070\)](#) = SPED stand-alone, SPED & ELEM dual
 - [WEST-E English Language Learner \(051\)](#) = ELL & ELEM dual
 - [NES Elementary Education: Subtests I & II \(102/103\)](#) = ELEM stand-alone (note: must take both subtests)

All candidates must pass the WEST-E or NES test in the desired endorsement area(s) prior to program completion.

HOW DO I TAKE THE TESTS?

To view pricing details, schedule your test, identify available testing locations, and view available testing slots, refer to the [WEST website](#). ESD 112 is not a testing location for the WEST/NES tests. Test prices range from \$96-\$165 per test.

WHEN DO I TAKE THE TESTS?

Scores or proof of test attempts are due to ESD-U by the application deadline. If you don't pass the test the first time, you are able to retake the test, however you need to pay each time. Additionally, there is a 30-45 day waiting period before you are able to retake the test. You receive your test scores immediately, with the exception of the WEST-B Writing test, which takes 4-6 weeks to be scored. Passing test scores do not expire.

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HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR THE TESTS?

ESD-U candidates who have taken and passed the tests strongly recommend studying for the tests and taking practice tests. Test preparation materials are available on the [WEST website](#) for each test, and you can locate additional test preparation materials online (see resources below). The ESD-U program has a limited number of study guides available for check-out at the ESD 112, contact [Alissa Jolly](#) if you would like to borrow one. We only check-out one guide at a time, per person. The ESD-U program may host test preparation sessions in the early spring, and they will be advertised when they are finalized.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Online resources for multiple WEST & NES tests:

- [WEST Website](#): Includes test content, sample questions, video tutorials, and testing strategies.
- [Quizlet](#): Search by test name to find pre-made flash cards. Create a free account for full access.
- [Mometrix Test Preparation](#): Includes review videos, practice tests, and can purchase study guides and flashcards.
- [240 Tutoring](#): Includes practice tests, study guides, instructional videos, etc. (1 free practice test, appx \$50/month for full access to all materials).
- [Study.com](#): Includes video lessons, practice tests, study materials, etc. For full access to all materials, must create an account.
- [ExamEdge](#): Includes a free practice test and can purchase more practice tests (appx \$50 for 5 tests).

Preparation materials from WEST website:

- [WEST-B Preparation Materials](#)
- [WEST-E SPED Preparation Materials](#)
- [WEST-E ELL Preparation Materials](#)
- [NES ELEM I&II Preparation Materials](#)

Online resource for WEST-B test:

- [WEST-B Preparation Canvas course](#) created by Yakima Valley College, in cooperation with the Washington State Center of Excellence for Careers in Education. Includes test overview, study skills, testing strategies, and walkthrough PowerPoint study materials.

If you have feedback on these resources or find other helpful resources, feel free to contact us!