



# Foundations of Reading



An assessment aligned with scientifically based reading research for Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Middle Childhood Education, and Special Education teacher licensure candidates

## Why Foundations of Reading?

The Foundations of Reading assessment focuses on development, instruction, and assessment of reading. It covers the essential components of reading development and best practices in reading instruction and assessment identified by reading research.

**Foundations of Reading** is a rigorous assessment that includes both selected-response and constructed-response items.

- Authentic classroom-based scenarios enable candidates to demonstrate ability to apply their knowledge of reading development, instruction, and assessment to make evidence-based instructional decisions.
- Constructed-response items require candidates to demonstrate extended thinking (the highest level on Webb's Depth-of-Knowledge Levels) by reviewing and evaluating samples of student performance in various components of reading.

***“Contrary to the popular theory that learning to read is natural and easy, learning to read is a complex linguistic achievement. ... Teaching reading requires considerable knowledge and skill.”***

—Louisa C. Moats, from  
Teaching Reading IS Rocket Science

## Aligned with:

- Current, convergent research on reading instruction and assessment
- International Literacy Association Standards for Reading Professionals—Elementary Classroom Teacher Candidates
- International Dyslexia Association Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading—Classroom Educators
- National Reading Panel findings\*
- National Literacy Panel on Language-Minority Children and Youth findings

\*The National Reading Panel defines scientifically based reading research (SBRR) as research that "applies rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to obtain valid knowledge relevant to reading development, reading instruction, and reading difficulties."



## Content Features

- **Breadth of content** addresses the full range of knowledge to teach reading:
  - Five essential components of reading development identified by the National Reading Panel (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension)
  - Other integral and reciprocal components of reading development, such as spelling development, academic language development, and oral language and writing strategies that support reading, and analysis of complex literary and informational texts
- **Depth of content** requires candidates to demonstrate knowledge of assessment, differentiation, and intervention with respect to each component of reading to address the needs of all students, including the following:
  - English language learners
  - Students experiencing difficulty in a particular area of reading
  - Students with special needs
  - Students with advanced skills in one or more areas of reading

## Program Features

- **In-state passing score panel** validates assessment content and recommends passing score to align with state goals.
- **Dedicated website** provides centralized access to customer service, personalized support, and robust test preparation tools for both candidates and educator preparation programs.
- **Preparation tools**, including study guides, tutorials, and full-length practice tests with detailed analyses of responses, provide candidates and educator preparation programs resources to successfully prepare for the assessment experience.
- **Continuous, year-round administration** at secure computer-based test centers located nationwide and around the world enables candidates to arrange the testing experience around a schedule that is convenient to them.
- **Rapid, actionable, customized reporting** with access to data and performance trends supports state policy, educator preparation program research, and accreditation. Authorized users can view, disaggregate, and explore candidate, educator preparation program, and state performance data with *ResultsAnalyzer*<sup>®</sup>, our secure, web-based, interactive reporting platform.

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