

TITLE: Approval of iteach-Hawai'i's Special Education Praxis Exam Transition and Program Alignment Review

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) approves iteach-Hawai'i's Special Education (SPED) Program to use the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Praxis Exam 5355: Special Education-Foundational Knowledge as the content knowledge assessment for their General SPED program.

iteach-Hawai'i will continue to operate as a Generalist SPED licensure program. Should the program leadership choose to shift the program focus to a specialized area (e.g., mild/moderate or severe/profound), a formal HTSB program modification or new program application will be required for Board approval.

iteach-Hawai'i has agreed to the requirements listed below.

- Provide evidence showing its alignment with the Praxis Exam 5355 and the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Initial K–12 Standards (2020) such as:
 - A curriculum crosswalk aligning EPP coursework with Praxis 5355 content areas.
 - A crosswalk aligning Praxis 5355 with the CEC Initial K–12 Standards (2020).
 - Supporting evidence and course syllabi for HTSB Board review and approval.
- Allow teacher candidates who previously passed Praxis 5354 will meet the SPED content knowledge requirement under HTSB's Recency Policy ([New Business Item 22-28](#)).
- Allow teacher candidates the option to take Praxis 5355 to meet the SPED content knowledge requirement.
- Submit program completer recommendation in General Education SPED for teacher candidates who have successfully met licensure requirements.

HTSB staff reviewed all submitted evidence from the Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) to verify alignment with the content of Praxis Exam 5355: Special Education-Foundational Knowledge and CEC standards.

Rationale/Background:

The ETS has discontinued its Praxis Exam 5354: Special Education-Core Knowledge and Applications. As a result, HTSB-approved EPPs that offer General Special Education will need to transition using the Praxis Exam 5355: Special Education-Foundational Knowledge. iteach-Hawai'i was also given the option to submit a program

modification application to change from its Special Education Generalist to a Special Education Mild/Moderate program.

In May 2025, HTSB staff met with iteach-Hawai'i and ETS Director of Educational Partnerships, Jason Dietrich, to clarify the changes to the Praxis exams and address any questions regarding the transition from the Praxis Exam 5354: Special Education-Core Knowledge and Applications to Praxis Exam 5355: Special Education-Foundational Knowledge. Materials regarding this new exam were distributed in printed form and sent via email to iteach-Hawai'i.

Beginning September 2025, ETS will offer Praxis Exam 5355: Special Education-Foundational Knowledge. This exam consolidates the Special Education: Mild/Moderate and Generalist Special Education Praxis assessments and aligns with the CEC Initial K–12 Standards (2020).

Cost:

All costs are included in the current staff job duties/responsibilities.

Submitted by: Kristi Miyamae

Referred to: Teacher Education Committee

REVISED IN COMMITTEE AND GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

New Business Item 25-10
Introduced September 12, 2025

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