



# Illinois Certification Testing System

## SCORE REPORT EXPLANATION

### Assessment of Professional Teaching Tests Fields: 101, 102, 103, and 104

#### Overview

Your score report provides information regarding the Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) test you took at the recent administration of the Illinois Certification Testing System (ICTS). The report includes information regarding your Pass/Did Not Pass status for that test, your performance on the test as a whole, and your performance on the major subareas of the test. Your scores are reported to you, to the Illinois State Board of Education, and to the institution(s) you indicated during the registration process.

The APT tests each contain 120 multiple-choice test questions as well as 2 constructed-response assignments.

#### Total Test Score

Scores for the APT tests are reported on a scale from 100 to 300. A total test scaled score of 240 or above is required to pass these tests. Candidates with a total test score below 240 do not pass the test. Your scaled total test score for the APT test that you took is based on your performance on the entire test, including the number of multiple-choice test questions you answered correctly and the scores you received on the two constructed-response assignments. The multiple-choice section represents 80 percent of your total test score and the constructed-response assignments combined represent 20 percent of your total test score.

#### Subarea Scores

The scores listed in the "Subarea" section are also reported on a scale from 100 to 300 and are intended to provide you with feedback on your performance in the major subareas of the test. Performance Indicators for the two constructed-response assignments are also provided. This information is descriptive only and may help you assess your areas of strength and weakness. Generally a score at or above 240 on a given subarea or the constructed-response assignments indicates satisfactory performance within that subarea/assignment. You do not have to "pass" each subarea or section of the test—there is no "passing" score associated with individual subareas.

Subareas with more objectives receive more coverage on the test and thus contribute more to your total test score. It is therefore not possible to average your performance across subareas to arrive at the total test score. Your total test score is **not** an average of your subarea scores.

#### Multiple-Choice Scores

Your performance on the multiple-choice test section is based on the number of test questions answered correctly; you do not "lose" any points for wrong answers. Each multiple-choice test question counts the same toward the total score.

#### Constructed-Response Scores

Each of the responses to the two constructed-response assignments for the APT tests is scored by at least two qualified educators. Scorers are unaware of the identities of the individuals whose responses they score and are unaware of the score(s) assigned by others to the same response. Scorers receive extensive orientation in standardized scoring procedures and take a qualifying assessment to ensure that they are ready to score. Scorers judge the overall effectiveness of each response while focusing on a set of characteristics that have been defined by Illinois educators as important. Scorers are oriented to provide an overall judgment, not to indicate specific errors. Scorers base their judgments on the quality of pedagogical knowledge demonstrated in the constructed-response assignments rather than on penmanship, length, or neatness.

In general, a response that receives a passing score demonstrates the following performance characteristics:

- **Purpose:** the fulfillment of the assigned tasks by responding in an appropriate manner to the elements of the specific performance assignment

- **Application of Professional Knowledge:** the application of accurate, effective, and current professional knowledge and practices relevant to the specific performance assignment and to the appropriate subarea of the APT test framework
- **Support/Elaboration:** the appropriateness and quality of support/elaboration through the use of supporting details, examples, and rationales relevant to the specific performance assignment and to the appropriate subarea of the APT test framework

Each response is scored on a scale from 1 to 4, with 1 representing a totally undeveloped response and 4 representing a response that is very well developed. Each response is read and scored by two readers; the sum of the two readers' scores is the total score assigned to the response. Any pair of scores that differs by more than one point is regarded as discrepant and is scored by a third reader. For example, a total score of 5 can result only from readers' scores of 2 plus 3, not from scores of 1 plus 4, since the scores in the latter pair differ by more than one point.

The raw scores from each of the two constructed-response assignments are then **combined** into a single score. The combined raw score for the two constructed responses is converted to a scale from 100 to 300, with 240 or above representing acceptable performance on the assignment. If your response is off topic, illegible, written in a language other than English, of insufficient quantity to score, or merely a repetition of the assignment, you will receive a score of "U" for unscorable. A designation of "B" is assigned if the constructed-response form is blank.

***See the Illinois Certification Testing System Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) test study guides for an explanation of the performance characteristics and for further information on how the responses are scored. Study guides are available on the ICTS Web site at [www.icts.nesinc.com](http://www.icts.nesinc.com).***

### **Passing Scores**

The passing scores for the ICTS were established by the Illinois State Board of Education based on recommendations from panels of Illinois educators.

### **How to Request a Rescore of Your Test**

All answer documents for the multiple-choice test section are scored by computer and, as such, are virtually error free. However, if you think an error has been made on your total test score(s), you may request a rescore of your multiple-choice answer document and your constructed responses. The fee for rescoring an APT test is \$50. Payment must be made by personal check, cashier's check, or money order only. A request for rescoring an APT test must be made in writing. The written request and appropriate payment made out to Evaluation Systems must be mailed and postmarked within three months of the score report date.

If you have questions regarding **PROGRAM POLICIES** or **WHICH TEST(S)** you must take, contact your college advisor, certification officer, or a regional office of education or visit the Illinois State Board of Education Web site at [www.isbe.net/teachers.htm](http://www.isbe.net/teachers.htm).