



# New York State Teacher Certification Examinations™

## Understanding Candidate Score Reports

### Redeveloped Bilingual Education Assessments

Candidates who take the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations™ (NYSTCE®) can view their score reports as PDF documents on the Internet and may also elect to have them sent via email. The score report includes a section for each test taken on the test date indicated on the report. Each section includes information regarding the candidate's Pass/Did Not Pass status for that test, the total test score, and the performance on the major content competencies of the test. An individual's test scores are reported to the candidate, the New York State Education Department, and the institution that the candidate indicated during registration, unless the candidate notified Evaluation Systems in writing not to release scores to that institution.

### Interpreting the Total Test Scores

The results for each of these NYSTCE tests are reported as a score in the range from 400 to 600. The minimum passing score for each test is 520. A candidate with a total test score of 520 or above passes the test. A candidate with a total test score below 520 does not pass the test. The minimum passing score was established by the New York State Commissioner of Education, with input from New York State educators. The total test score is based on the *total* number of selected-response test questions answered correctly and on the scores for the constructed-response assignments on the test. Each selected-response question counts the same toward the total score. There is no penalty for wrong answers.

### Interpreting Detailed Performance Information

Performance indices are provided for each competency of these NYSTCE tests. This information is descriptive only and may help assess strengths and identify areas where additional preparation may be necessary. There is no "passing" score associated with individual test components.

#### Performance Index Definitions

- ++++ Performance on the skills and knowledge is well above the level represented by the minimum passing score.
- +++ Performance on the skills and knowledge is just at or above the level represented by the minimum passing score.
- ++ Performance on the skills and knowledge is just below the level represented by the minimum passing score.
- + Performance on the skills and knowledge is well below the level represented by the minimum passing score.

### Responses to the Constructed-Response Assignments

Constructed-response assignments are scored by at least two qualified New York State educators. Scorers are unaware of the identities of the individuals whose responses they score. Scorers receive extensive orientation in standardized scoring procedures and take a qualifying assessment to ensure that they are ready to score. For constructed-response assignments, scores are assigned according to a four-point scale that describes various levels of performance.

Scorers judge the *overall effectiveness* of each response while focusing on a set of characteristics that have been defined by New York State educators as important for the test. Scorers provide an overall judgment; they do not indicate specific errors. If a candidate's response is blank, unrelated to the assigned topic or off-task, unreadable,

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## **NYSTCE: Understanding Candidate Score Reports**

in a language other than English/the target language, or contains an insufficient amount of original work to score, or is otherwise unscramble, the candidate will receive a "U" (unscorable). The response should be the candidate's original work, in their own words, and not copied or paraphrased from some other work. The performance characteristics against which responses are scored and examples of strong responses to sample constructed-response assignments are provided in the study guide for each test. Study guides are available on the NYSTCE website at **[www.nystce.nesinc.com](http://www.nystce.nesinc.com)**.