

Highly Qualified Middle (7-8) and Secondary Teachers (9-12)

A highly qualified middle or secondary teacher (7-12) who is **new** to the profession is one who is fully licensed to teach in Tennessee (including the specified alternative routes) with no licensure requirements waived, holds at least a bachelor's degree, and has demonstrated competency in each academic subject assigned to teach by having:

- passed one of the Praxis teacher licensure tests designated on the test options list in Appendix A, or
- an academic major in the subject area, or
- the coursework equivalent of an academic major (24 semester hours), or
- a graduate degree in the subject area, or
- National Board Certification in the subject area.

A highly qualified **existing** middle or secondary teacher (7-12) who is not new to the profession is one who is fully licensed to teach in Tennessee (including the specified alternative routes) with no licensure requirements waived, holds at least a bachelor's degree and has demonstrated competency in each academic subject assigned to teach by having:

- passed one of the NTE or Praxis teacher licensure tests designated on the test options list in Appendix A, or
- an academic major in the subject area, or
- the coursework equivalent of an academic major (24 semester hours), or
- a graduate degree in the subject area, or
- National Board Certification in the subject area, or
- demonstrated competence in all academic subject areas via a highly objective uniform state standard of evaluation. (See section on Evaluation Option)

Science and Social Studies. Middle grades (7-8) and secondary teachers (9-12) who teach science and social studies courses should refer to Appendices B and C, respectively, for further guidance related to the test and major options available for meeting the highly qualified requirements in these core areas.

Middle Grades Subject-Specific Tests. Tennessee has completed the process to adopt four Praxis middle grades subject specific tests for middle grades teachers (7-8) who choose to use the test option to meet the federal requirements. The tests and the respective minimum passing scores are listed below. Information about these tests is available on the ETS web site at

<http://www.ets.org>.

Test Code	Test Name	Minimum Score
0049	Middle School English Language Arts	145
0069	Middle School Mathematics	143

0439	Middle School Science	135
0089	Middle School Social Studies	140

Substitute Core Courses. A secondary course that is offered as a substitute for a core academic course must be taught by a highly qualified teacher. A list of the applicable courses that may be substituted for a core academic course appears in Appendix D