



## TEST DESIGN AND FRAMEWORK

### TEST DESIGN

#### Paraprofessional

The **Paraprofessional** assessment consists of **one test**. It contains selected-response questions. The areas of content assessed and the approximate number of selected-response questions in each content area are shown in the table below. Further information regarding the content included in each subarea can be found in the test framework.

#### ■ Paraprofessional (Test Code 177)

Subareas:	Objectives	Approximate Number of Selected-Response Questions
➤ Reading	0001–0003	25
➤ Writing	0004–0006	25
➤ Mathematics	0007–0009	25
➤ Instructional Support	0010–0012	25
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>



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### TEST FRAMEWORK

#### Paraprofessional

##### READING

**0001 Understand the meaning of common vocabulary words and strategies for deriving the meaning of unfamiliar words.**

For example:

- identifying meaning of words or phrases in context
- recognizing synonyms and antonyms for words
- recognizing correct use of commonly misused words (e.g., their/they're, to/too)

**0002 Understand how to interpret and analyze a wide range of texts.**

For example:

- identifying the main idea of a passage
- recognizing supporting ideas in a passage
- drawing inferences and conclusions from directly stated content
- recognizing cause-and-effect relationships in a passage
- distinguishing between fact and opinion in written texts
- identifying literary elements (e.g., character, setting, plot, climax)

**0003 Understand how to interpret graphic information.**

For example:

- interpreting information from tables, diagrams, charts, and graphs
- recognizing appropriate use of graphic formats to represent written information
- drawing conclusions from information presented in a graph, table, or chart



## WRITING

### **0004 Understand parts of speech, parts of sentences, and proper usage in Standard American English.**

For example:

- recognizing parts of speech (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections)
- recognizing parts of a sentence (e.g., subject, verb, complement)
- recognizing the standard use of verbs (e.g., subject-verb agreement, verb tense)
- recognizing the standard use of pronouns (e.g., pronoun-antecedent agreement)
- recognizing the standard use of modifiers (e.g., adjectives, adverbs)

### **0005 Understand and apply basic principles of good writing.**

For example:

- recognizing the use of writing for different audiences and purposes (e.g., business letter, newspaper article, advertisement)
- identifying effective topic sentences and supporting details
- recognizing distracting details or material not relevant to the main idea of a paragraph or passage
- recognizing sentence fragments and run-on sentences
- demonstrating the ability to edit written text to improve grammar, sentence structure, and word usage

### **0006 Understand the proper use of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization in Standard American English.**

For example:

- identifying and correcting errors in spelling
- identifying and correcting errors in punctuation
- identifying and correcting errors in capitalization

## MATHEMATICS

### 0007 Understand number sense and basic algebra.

For example:

- demonstrating the ability to perform basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- demonstrating knowledge of the correct order of operations
- recognizing and interpreting mathematical symbols (e.g., +, −, <, >, ≤, ≥)
- demonstrating knowledge of definitions of basic terms such as sum, difference, product, quotient, numerator, and denominator
- recognizing the relative positions of numbers on a number line (e.g.,  $\frac{1}{3}$  is between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) and equivalent forms of numbers (e.g.,  $\frac{1}{2} = 0.5$ )
- demonstrating knowledge of place value for whole numbers and decimal numbers
- demonstrating the ability to solve problems (e.g., basic math operations and/or estimation)
- demonstrating the ability to solve a single-step equation involving one variable (e.g., find  $x$  if  $x + 3 = 5$ )
- demonstrating the ability to compute percentages

### 0008 Understand basic concepts of geometry and measurement.

For example:

- demonstrating the ability to represent time and money in more than one way (e.g., 15 minutes =  $\frac{1}{4}$  hour; 10:45 = quarter of eleven; \$0.25 = a quarter)
- recognizing techniques for converting between units of length, mass, volume, and weight in the same measurement system (e.g., feet to yards, milliliters to liters)
- identifying basic geometric figures (e.g., right triangle, cylinder, polygon)
- demonstrating the ability to perform basic computations related to area, volume, and perimeter for basic geometric figures

### 0009 Understand concepts related to data analysis.

For example:

- demonstrating the ability to interpret and/or compare information from tables, charts, and graphs
- demonstrating the ability to determine the mean, median, and mode of a set of data
- demonstrating the ability to represent data in graphic formats

## **INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT**

### **0010 Understand the application of reading skills to classroom instruction.**

For example:

- recognizing elements of phonics (e.g., long and short vowels) and how words are formed (e.g., syllables, root words, prefixes, suffixes)
- demonstrating knowledge of techniques for decoding text using context clues
- demonstrating knowledge of prereading strategies for students (e.g., skimming, making predictions)
- demonstrating knowledge of methods for determining how well students are comprehending what they read
- demonstrating knowledge of methods for helping students interpret written directions

### **0011 Understand the application of writing skills to classroom instruction.**

For example:

- demonstrating an awareness of techniques for helping students generate and organize ideas for writing (e.g., outlines, freewriting, graphic organizers)
- demonstrating knowledge of methods for monitoring student writing and identifying basic problems students may be having in their written work
- recognizing effective techniques for helping students edit and proofread their writing (e.g., correcting errors in grammar and spelling)
- demonstrating the ability to identify appropriate reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, library resources, the Internet) as well as effective techniques for helping students use them

### **0012 Understand application of mathematics skills to classroom instruction.**

For example:

- demonstrating the ability to relate mathematics to everyday situations
- identifying and correcting basic errors in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- demonstrating knowledge of techniques for helping students use instructional resources (e.g., math manipulative materials, rulers, money, charts, graphs, calculators) to support mathematical learning