




Clearing the Path:

HOW STRUCTURED TEST PREP BOOSTS TEACHER CERTIFICATION SUCCESS

Recent findings show a clear and statistically significant correlation between Passage Preparation's practice test performance and certification exam success

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**“Learning is
the gateway
to adventure”**

- PRINCESS BEATRICE OF YORK

Contents

02 Introduction

03 The Study

03 Methodology

04 Results

06 Conclusion

07 References

07 Appendix

Introduction

A study from Passage Preparation™ shows that structured, data-informed test prep is helping more aspiring teachers earn certification and enter the classroom faster. Analyzing data from one of Texas's largest alternative certification programs, the study found that Passage Preparation significantly improved pass rates, reduced costly retakes, and helped candidates achieve classroom readiness sooner, all without lowering the bar for licensure.

These results come at a pivotal time. Many school systems still face challenges staffing high-need roles, and alternative pathways are playing a growing role in building the teacher workforce. Career changers and paraprofessionals bring valuable experience, but often need targeted support to pass licensure exams, especially on their first attempt.

Unfortunately, pass rates remain low across the board:

- Just 46% of candidates pass the Praxis® on the first try¹
- Over one in five who fail never try again²
- Aspiring teachers of color pass at just 43% on the first attempt¹
- 34% of them never retake the test

These negative experiences discourage talented individuals and hinder district efforts to diversify and strengthen their school systems.

Certification exams serve an important purpose, and research confirms their link to student achievement³ But meaningful preparation must go beyond test-taking tricks. Candidates need the right support to deepen content knowledge, close skill gaps, and gain the confidence to succeed on the exam and in the classroom.



Doctors, lawyers, and nuclear engineers are more likely to pass their licensure exams than teachers.⁴

22% who fail will not try again

22% of candidates who fail their first attempt do not try again, permanently ending their plans to teach.



In the end, over a quarter of all test-takers never pass.

The Study



To better understand how structured prep supports licensure success, iteach partnered with *Passage Preparation* to analyze how practice performance aligned with certification outcomes. The study focused on Texas-based candidates who used *Passage Preparation* between December 2024 and February 2025, looking at whether preparation levels predicted exam results.

Methodology

This study draws on data from candidates enrolled in iteach, a Texas-based, state-approved alternative certification provider. The analysis focused on two of the most common certification exams administered through the Texas Educator Certification Examination Program (TExES™): the EC–6 Core Subjects exam and the Special Education Supplemental exam.

This study drew from candidates enrolled in iteach, a state-approved alternative certification provider in Texas. It focused on two of the most common exams in the Texas Educator Certification Examination Program (TExES™):

- **EC–6 Core Subjects**
- **Special Education Supplemental**

The EC–6 Core exam is a comprehensive, multi-part test covering five content areas:

- Fine Arts, Health, and Physical Education
- English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

To evaluate the effectiveness of *Passage Preparation*, researchers grouped candidates based on their scores on a full-length *Passage Preparation* practice test. Candidates who scored 85% or higher on their first attempt were designated as “prepared.” These results were then compared with their official certification exam outcomes.

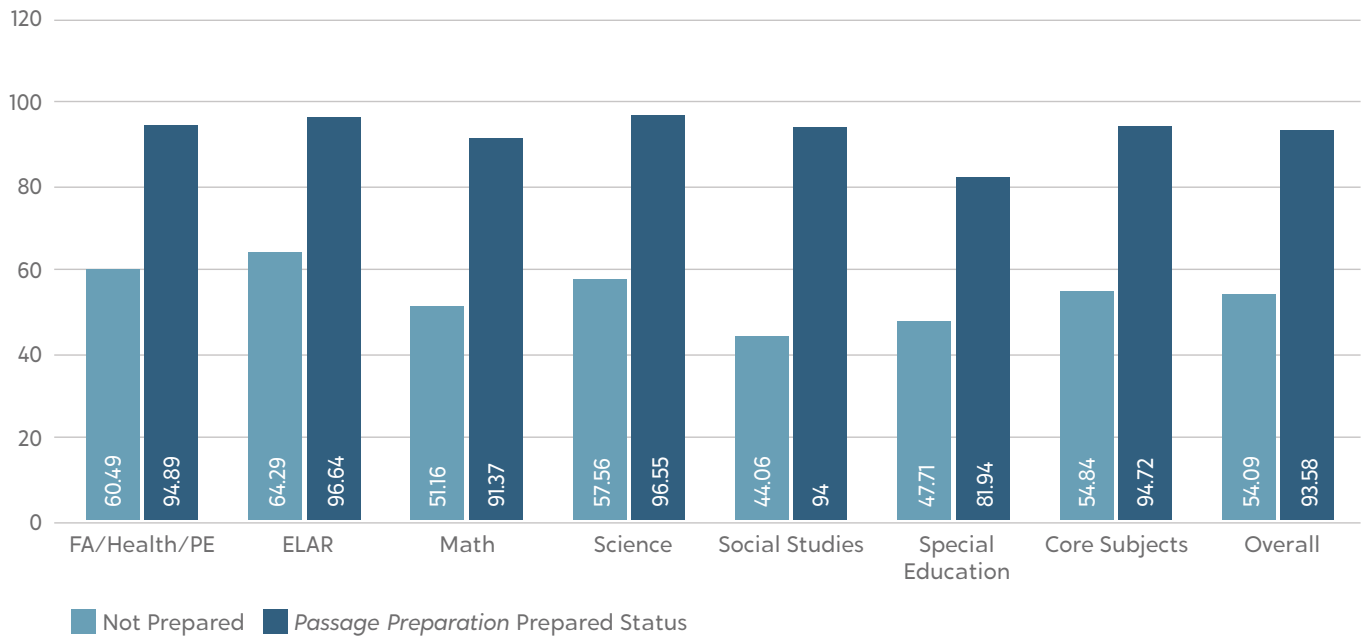
Results

Across both exams and every domain of the EC-6 Core, candidates who met the 85% benchmark passed their certification exams at substantially higher rates than those who did not. Among all participants, candidates identified as “prepared” passed at a rate of 94%. For EC-6 Core test takers, the rate rose to 95%.

The data revealed a clear and statistically significant link between Passage Preparation™ performance and certification success.

Figure 1

Certification Exam Pass Rates by Passage Preparation™ Prepared Status



In contrast, candidates who didn't reach the benchmark or didn't use *Passage Preparation* at all had much lower pass rates: just 54% overall and 55% on the EC-6 Core.

These results held across all subject areas, confirming that *Passage Preparation's* diagnostic-aligned, content-rich practice supports more than just surface-level readiness. By identifying specific knowledge gaps and giving candidates realistic testing practice, the program helps aspiring teachers build confidence and content mastery.

Table 1

Test Area	Achieved Passage Preparation™ Prepared Status	Tested Though Not Prepared by Passage Preparation™
Core Subjects	95%	55%
Overall	94%	54%





Conclusion

Too often, the licensure exam derails future teachers, and not because they lack the potential to succeed, but because they lack access to effective preparation. This burden falls even harder on teachers of color.

The teaching profession deserves high entry standards, and every candidate deserves the support to meet them. *Passage Preparation* provides a scalable, research-backed approach that helps candidates prepare thoroughly and pass confidently, without lowering expectations.

Passage Preparation is a comprehensive support system built by educators who understand the stakes. It blends high-quality content with practical tools and wraparound supports to meet the needs of school systems, including:

- **The Passage Portal:** An admin dashboard that lets leaders monitor candidate progress and provide timely interventions
- **Bulk discount vouchers:** Scalable pricing that makes it easier to serve entire cohorts or programs equitably
- **Flexible implementation:** Integrates into coursework or stands alone, adapting to each program's unique structure

Together, these supports empower more aspiring educators to reach the classroom prepared to make a lasting difference.

Let's Connect!

Click the link to connect with us to learn how *Passage Preparation* can help your candidates pass certification exams faster and enter the classroom fully prepared.

passagepreparation.com



APPENDIX 1

Certification Exam Pass Rate Based on Passage Preparation™ Prepared Status

Subject	Cert. Pass Rate (Overall)	Cert. Pass Rate (Did not Pass Practice Test Prior to Cert. Test)	Cert. Pass Rate (Passed Practice Test Prior to Cert. Test)	Difference (Ovr. vs. Passed)	Difference (Did not Pass vs. Passed)
FA/Health/PE	77.29%	60.49%	94.84%	17.55%	34.34%
ELAR	79.50%	64.29%	96.64%	17.15%	32.36%
Math	66.95%	51.16%	91.37%	24.42%	40.20%
Science	75.39%	57.56%	96.55%	21.16%	38.99%
Social Studies	65.34%	44.06%	94.00%	28.66%	49.94%
Special Education	61.33%	47.71%	81.94%	20.62%	34.24%
Core Subjects	72.60%	54.84%	94.72%	22.11%	39.87%
Overall	71.49%	54.09%	93.58%	22.09%	39.49%

REFERENCES

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