**Assessment #1: School Leaders Licensure Assessment**

**Part 1**

**a. Assessment description**

The state of NJ requires candidates to pass the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) for certification. As reported in *School Leaders Licensure Assessment*, Educational Testing Services (ETS) developed the SLLA to provide a thorough, fair and carefully validated assessment “designed to measure the extent to which entry-level school leaders demonstrate the standards-relevant knowledge and skills necessary for competent professional practice” (p. 5). The SLLA was formerly aligned with the ISLLC/ELCC standards, but the test was recently revised to align with the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSELs).

Upon completion of their educational leadership coursework, candidates register to take this 4-hour electronic examination at a testing center and time convenient to them. Candidates receive their scores directly from ETS. The passing score in the State of New Jersey is 163.

**b.** **Alignment to Standards**

CAEP Standards for Advanced Programs: A.1.2

Alignment with the PSEL/NELP standards:

1. Strategic Leadership – 13%
2. Instructional Leadership – 17%
3. Climate and Cultural Leadership – 13%
4. Ethical Leadership – 12%
5. Organizational Leadership – 10%
6. Community Engagement Leadership – 10%
7. Analysis Constructed Response (CR) – 25%

**c. Analysis of Data Findings**

The overall pass rate for TCNJ educational leadership candidates during the past three years is 97%, with 35 of 36 test takers obtaining a passing score. The candidate who did not pass may retake the assessment. TCNJ candidates typically perform at or slightly above the national average performance range. The mean scores are stable across the three years when interpreted in light of the exam’s error range of 1.8 to 4.8 points. Our candidates’ slightly lower performance in 2017-18 may be attributed to one particularly low scoring candidate and to the reformulation of the exam to align with the PSELs before our candidates were exposed to the content from the new standards in their courses. Overall, the assessment results attest to a generally strong program in need of realignment to the new professional standards.

**d. Interpretation of Evidence for Meeting Standards**

Scores are reported holistically, thus precluding analysis by individual standard.

**Part 2**

**e. Assessment Tool**

The SLLA is divided into two sections: Section 1 includes selected-response questions that measure a broad range of concepts across the leadership knowledge base content area. Section 2 consists of 4 constructed-response items calling for written answers based on scenarios and sets of documents an educator might encounter. ETS provides candidates with detailed instructions, practice questions, and examples of scored responses for candidates in the *SLS Study Companion* and in *The School Leadership Series Information Bulletin*.

Test Statistics for NJ 2016-2017

State Reliability Estimate: 0.7871

Consistently Classified: .905

**f. Scoring Rubric**

Scores are reported holistically as scaled score and whether the candidate passed.

g. **Data Tables**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Academic Year | Number of Test Takers\* | Passing Score | Natl.  Median | Program  Mean  Scores | Possible Range | Natl. Avg.  Performance  Range | Prog. Performance Range | Pass Rate |
| 2017-2018 | 17 | 163 | 177.5 | 176.4 | 100-200 | 169-181 | 153-188 | 94% |
| 2016-2017 | 11 | 163 | 176 | 177.8 | 100-200 | 169-181 | 166-193 | 100% |
| 2015-2016 | 8 | 163 | 176 | 179.6 | 100-200 | 169-181 | 172-185 | 100% |