



New York State Teacher Certification Examinations™

Test Validation Process and Reliability of Test Results

Test Validation Process

The validity of a test refers to the ability of the test to support the inferences that are to be drawn from it. Test validation is a process of gathering evidence that the test measures what it is designed to measure and that the inferences to be made from test scores are supported by evidence. Various types of evidence may be considered in establishing the validity of a test.

The validation process for the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations (NYSTCE) tests followed professionally accepted procedures for the validation of certification tests and was monitored by the New York State Education Department. The focus of validation efforts for the NYSTCE tests was on establishing that the content measured by the tests was related to the knowledge and skills required for certification in New York State. New York Education Law, the Commissioner's Regulations concerning teacher certification, New York State Learning Standards, and the input of thousands of practicing public school educators and college and university faculty were considered in establishing the content validity of the tests. Validity evidence was gathered pertaining to the overall purpose of the tests, the content to be measured, and the specific test questions measuring test content. One hundred percent of each test is content validated for New York State. For further information, see the [NYSTCE Aligned Assessments for New York State](#).

Reliability of Test Results

In the context of assessment, reliability refers to the consistency of scores received by groups of examinees. The estimated reliability of each of the NYSTCE tests is monitored to ensure that the reliability is within reasonable and acceptable bounds for teacher certification tests.

Reliability information is accumulated with each NYSTCE test administration. Reliability estimates are calculated as decimal coefficients that range from zero (0.00) to one (1.00). Estimates of reliability (Total Test Decision Consistency) for the NYSTCE tests required of all candidates for certification are typically in the range of 0.95 to 0.98.