Your Question
You requested 50-state information on initial teacher licensure requirements. Specifically, you were interested in state assessment requirements for initial licensure.

Our Response
Requirements for Initial Teaching Licenses
Requirements for entry into teacher preparation programs and for teacher certification following the completion of such programs vary by state, grade and subject area. Fifty-state data on initial licensure requirements are compiled in the resources below.

- **State Policy Yearbook Database** (National Council on Teacher Quality, 2017): Provides updated 50-state information and citations on 10 teacher policy categories. State specifics (including the types of licensure assessments used) can be retrieved by clicking each data point and selecting a state from the drop-down menu at the top of the page. On initial licensure, data points include state requirements for:
  - **Student teaching/clinical practice** (assignments, mentor teachers, length).
  - **Teaching methods** (performance assessment and/or traditional pedagogy assessment).
  - Elementary **content knowledge, teaching reading, teaching mathematics** (academic and test requirements).
  - Middle school **content knowledge, adolescent literacy** (academic and test requirements).
  - Secondary **content knowledge, adolescent literacy** (academic and test requirements).
  - Special education **content knowledge, teaching reading** (academic and test requirements).

- **Staff Qualifications and Development** (Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, with related datasets from 2011-2017): Click [Test requirements for initial certification of elementary and secondary teachers](#) (2017 and 2018) for high-level state data on assessment requirements.

- **Certification Reference Tables** (National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, 2015): Download “Broad Requirements for Initial Teaching Certification” for high-level state data on degree, coursework, pedagogy and other related initial licensure requirements.

Teacher Licensure Assessments and Cut Scores
**Basic Skills, Content and Traditional Pedagogy Assessments**
The most widely used basic skills, content and traditional pedagogy assessments for teacher licensing are the:

- **Praxis Series** assessments administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS).
  - Administered in 46 states and the District of Columbia.
  - See cut scores [here](#) and state specifics [here](#).
According to NCTQ’s process of developing performance assessment which was piloted in 2017 and meant to be more interactive and produce a portfolio of teacher performance. Other performance assessments exist or are in varying stages of implementation for program completion, state licensure and/or state program accreditation/review.

**Performance Assessments**

A growing number of states are incorporating performance/portfolio-based assessments into their requirements for preparation, licensing and/or educator preparation provider (EPP) accreditation/review. Typically, these assessments are intended to complement basic skills and content area assessments and used to measure a candidate’s classroom practice. The edTPA is the most widely used teacher performance assessment. According to [this participation map](https://example.com/participation-map), 19 states (AL, AR, CA, CT, DE, GA, HI, IL, IA, MN, NJ, NY, NC, OR, SC, TN, WA, WI, WV) have approved the edTPA as a performance assessment for program completion, state licensure and/or state program accreditation/review. These policies are in varying stages of implementation; state specifics can be retrieved [here](https://example.com/here).

Other performance assessments exist or are in development — such as ETS’ PPAT, a new version of the Praxis that is meant to be more interactive and produce a portfolio of teacher performance, and ETS’ NOTE, a simulation-based performance assessment which was piloted in 2017 and rolled out in 2017-18. Other states have, or are in the process of developing, their own state-specific performance assessment.

According to NCTQ’s 50-state scan on this topic, as of November 2017:

- Twelve states (CA, CT, DE, GA, HI, IL, MA, MO, NJ, OR, WA, WI) require a performance test as a condition of licensure. For example, Massachusetts requires a state-specific performance assessment for EPP program completion, and “beginning in September 2019, Connecticut will require new teachers to pass the edTPA in order to attain licensure.”

- Fifteen states (AZ, FL, IN, KS, KY, IA, MN, NC, ND, NV, OH, OK, SC, SD, TX) require a traditional pedagogy test as a condition of licensure (down from 22 states in 2015). For example, Minnesota requires all teachers to pass an applicable, grade-level and state-specific pedagogy test; and South Carolina requires all new teachers to pass the applicable, grade-level pedagogy test from the Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching series.

- Six states (AL, AR, IA, TN, NY, WV) require either a performance test or a traditional pedagogy test as a condition of initial licensure.** For example, new teachers in Iowa must pass the Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching series, the Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) or the appropriate edTPA.*** New teachers in West Virginia must either pass the Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching series or the EdTPA to obtain licensure.

- Nine states (CO, ID, MD, ME, MS, NE, NM, PA, RI) require a performance or pedagogy test only for certain candidates. For example, “Maine requires all new elementary teachers to pass a pedagogy test from the Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching series in order to attain licensure. It is only a requirement for middle and secondary school teachers if they have completed certification through alternate route programs.”

- Nine states (AK, DC, MI, MT, NH, UT, VA, VT, WY) do not require a performance or pedagogy test.

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**Note:** This information is subject to change and may not reflect the current status of the states or the latest data available. Please consult the latest reports or websites for the most accurate and up-to-date information.
**Alabama** and **Tennessee** now require all new teachers pass the EdTPA as a condition for licensure.

***To our knowledge, **Iowa** is the only state that allows teachers to substitute a passing score on the approved performance assessment for a passing score on an elementary, middle school or secondary content area assessment.