

# Foundations of Reading

**Test Basics:** This test covers the process in which children learn to read. Phonics, phonemic awareness, and awareness of print are extensively covered in this test. Usually this test is required as part of a Foundations of Reading course, which is taken by undergraduates and graduate students. As success in this test depends upon mastery of the foundations of learning to read, this test should be taken in tandem with the Foundations of Reading course, or taken after completing this course.

**Study Tips:** As this test should be taken either while taking the course or after the course, the information taught during this course should serve as a basis from which to study. Textbooks and notes can be particularly helpful. Again, practice tests and supplementary information found in the packets at Study and Research will be helpful as well. Making index cards with key terms would be helpful as well.

**Books to Consult:** Any textbooks in the class should be helpful. Also, a pdf file called “Put Reading First” is **strongly** recommended. This can be downloaded at:  
[http://www.cdl.org/resource-library/pdf/rsrch\\_bldg\\_blcks.pdf](http://www.cdl.org/resource-library/pdf/rsrch_bldg_blcks.pdf)



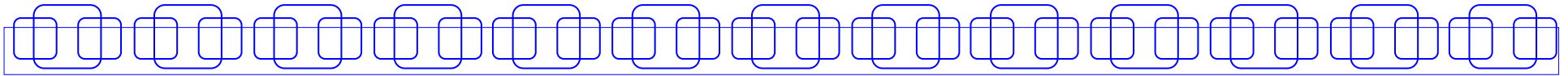
## MTEL Preparation

Hints, Tips, and Guidelines to Help You Do Your Best



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## MTEL: General Information

**Test Basics:** The MTEL process for licensure for Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education requires passing these three tests: Communication and Literacy: Reading and Writing; General Curriculum (Elementary and Early Childhood); and Foundations of Reading.

This brochure briefly describes each of the three tests, and tips on how to study.

**Registering for the Test:** Test dates and deadlines can be found on the Massachusetts Department of Education website at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mtel/>

Depending upon the graduate or undergraduate program, a student must pass both the Communication and Literacy and General Curriculum tests in order to be admitted to the undergraduate education program or to the graduate program.

**Test Preparation:** Practice tests can be picked up at Study and Research. Tutoring is also available; call to make an appointment.

## Communication and Literacy: Reading and Writing

**Test Basics:** This test is very similar to the SAT, composed of two sections, Reading and Writing. The focus of this test is on summarizing a passage, selecting the main idea of a section of text, and answering questions after reading a passage.

**Study Tips:** Take an MTEL study book out of the library or purchase one at the bookstore. In this book, there are two lists of words, one is parts of speech, and the other consists of high-frequency vocabulary words and definitions. Knowing these is an automatic test score booster. Write these words on index cards to create your own custom flashcards. Keep taking the practice tests several times to pinpoint where your weaknesses are, and where you can improve. Remember that main ideas are usually in the first sentence of every paragraph. Finally, work on your essay-structuring skills.

**Books to Consult:** [MTEL Communication and Literacy Skills: The Best Test Prep for the MTEL: Field 01](#) by Gail Rae, et.al. The book is black and yellow. You can find it in the library, in the bookstore, or online.

## General Curriculum

**Test Basics:** This test covers information that spans the general curriculum up until sixth grade. There are one hundred multiple-choice questions that cover math, science, language arts, reading, and social studies. Also, questions about special education and basic learning disorders/psychological disorders (dyslexia, Asperger's etc.) are included as well. Basic special education laws are addressed, along with child development questions. Two essays also are included.

**Study Tips:** There is not any particular book of study for this test. However, the book *What Your Fifth Grader Needs to Know* by E.D. Hirsch covers the basic curriculum and information that one needs to know for this test. Taking the practice test and pinpointing areas in which you scored weakly will help you in being solidly prepared for this test.