

# Becoming a Licensed Educational Psychologist

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## Learning Objectives

- Understand the LEP license and its applications
- Gain insight into the LEP Exam
- Review focus points of the LEP Exam
- Review test taking strategies



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## What is a Licensed Educational Psychologist?

- The LEP is governed by the Board of Behavioral Sciences
- All information can be found on the BBS website [www.bbs.ca.gov](http://www.bbs.ca.gov)
- The BBS is responsible for consumer protection through the regulation of
  - Licensed Educational Psychologists (LEP)
  - Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC)
  - Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW)
  - Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT)
  - Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCC)
  - Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASW)
  - Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (AMFT)



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### What is a Licensed Educational Psychologist?



- The practice of educational psychology is the performance of any of the following professional functions pertaining to academic learning processes or the education system or both

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### What is a Licensed Educational Psychologist?



- (a) Educational evaluation
- (b) **Diagnosis** of psychological disorders related to academic learning processes

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### What is a Licensed Educational Psychologist?



- (c) Administration of diagnostic tests related to academic learning processes including tests of academic ability, learning patterns, achievement, motivation, and personality factors
- (d) Interpretation of diagnostic tests related to academic learning processes including tests of academic ability, learning patterns, achievement, motivation, and personality factors

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## What is a Licensed Educational Psychologist?



- (e) Providing psychological **counseling** for individuals, groups, and families
- (f) Consultation with other educators and parents on issues of social development and behavioral and academic difficulties

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## What is a Licensed Educational Psychologist?



- (g) Conducting psychoeducational assessments for the purposes of identifying special needs
- (h) Developing treatment programs and strategies to address problems of adjustment
- (i) Coordinating intervention strategies for management of individual crises

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## Qualifications of the LEP



- **Education**
  - In order to qualify for LEP licensure, applicants must possess, at minimum, a master's degree in psychology, educational psychology, school psychology, counseling and guidance, or a degree deemed equivalent by the BBS. This degree must be obtained at a university accredited by one of the following accrediting bodies:
    - Western Association of Schools and Colleges
    - Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools
    - Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools
    - New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools
    - North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools
    - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
  - Applicants must successfully complete 60 semester hours of postgraduate work in pupil personnel services

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## Qualifications of the LEP



- **Experience**
  - Applicants must complete three years of full time experience (or the equivalent to three years of experience) working as a school psychologist. The three years of required experience may be satisfied as follows:
    - 1. Two years of full time (or equivalent) experience as a credentialed school psychologist in public schools. This experience can be unsupervised and needs to be obtained in the most recent six years from the time a person applies for licensure
  - AND
    - 2. A. One year of supervised professional experience in an accredited school psychology program
  - OR
    - 2. B. One year of full time (or equivalent) experience as a credentialed school psychologist in public schools obtained under the **direction** of a licensed educational psychologist or a licensed psychologist.
- The experience in 2A and 2B can be older than six years from the time a person applies for examination eligibility
- Retirees must take the LEP Exam within 6 years of practicing as a school psychologist

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## Qualifications of the LEP



- **Application Packet**
  - Once all qualifications have been met, you must complete the LEP Application Packet
    - Application
    - Photograph
    - Security Agreement
    - Fee
    - Fingerprinting
    - Transcripts
    - PPS Credential
    - Experience Verification Forms

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## Qualifications of the LEP



- **Accommodations for the LEP Exam**
  - BBS offers accommodations for the LEP Exam if you meet the qualifying criteria
    - Accommodations can be made to the testing environment and auxiliary aids offered
    - Must have prior approval
    - Only schedule your exam after approval has been granted

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## The LEP Exam



• Practice Questions:

Which of the following treatments are recommended for managing Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder?

- A. EEG Biofeedback, sensory integration training, and parent counseling
- B. EEG Biofeedback, sensory integration training, and removal of sugar and food additives
- C. Behavior management methods, stimulant medication, and parent counseling
- D. Behavior management methods, stimulant medication, and removal of sugar and food additives

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## The LEP Exam



• Answer

C. Behavior management methods, stimulant medication, and parent counseling

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## The LEP Exam



• Practice Questions:

A parent of a 5 year old is seeking an psychoeducational assessment because her child is not progressing academically as quickly as the other students in the class. What test would you use to assess the student's cognition?

- A. WISC-IV
- B. WPPSI-III
- C. WAIS-IV
- D. KTEA-3

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### The LEP Exam



- Answer

B. WPPSI-III

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### The LEP Exam



- Practice Question

Why should parents be given detailed feedback following the completion of a psychological assessment of their child?

- A. To provide the rationale for a special education placement decision.
- B. To encourage parents to take a more active role in their child's education in the future.
- C. To explain how social and emotional functioning is related to academic achievement.
- D. To maximize intervention success through increasing participation with recommendations.

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### The LEP Exam



- Answer

D. To maximize intervention success through increasing participation with recommendations.

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## The LEP Exam



• Practice Questions:

A 12 year old is referred for psychoeducational assessment. You receive a report from a psychiatrist that states your client is being treated for OCD. However, the parent believes her child has Autism Spectrum Disorder. What characteristic would tell you the client is probably affected by OCD rather than Autism?

- A. The client obsesses about topics or items
- B. The client does not have many friends
- C. The client shows social skills performance deficit, but not a social skills acquisition deficit
- D. The client show social skills acquisition deficits

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## The LEP Exam



• Answer:

- C. The client shows social skills performance deficit, but not a social skills acquisition deficit

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## The LEP Exam



• Practice Question

A right-handed 14-year-old student with a seizure disorder and no other health problems recently had a neuropsychological evaluation. The student's school asked an LEP to review the evaluation report and help them utilize the information. The report indicates impaired right-hand performance. An IQ test was not administered; however, all other evaluation results were within normal limits. What academic implications are inferred by these results?

- A. The student has impaired language functioning and will primarily require extensive academic assistance with reading, spelling, writing, and note-taking.
- B. The student has impaired visual-spatial functioning and will primarily require extensive academic assistance with reading, spelling, writing, and note-taking.
- C. The student has impaired language functioning, and will primarily require extensive academic assistance with math, nonverbal communication, science, and note-taking.
- D. The student has impaired visual-spatial functioning and will primarily require extensive academic assistance with math, nonverbal communication, science, and note-taking.

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### The LEP Exam



- Answer

A. The student has impaired language functioning and will primarily require extensive academic assistance with reading, spelling, writing, and note-taking.

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### The LEP Exam



- Practice Questions:

You have assessed a 5 year old non-verbal child with Autism. The child shows poor social skills and self-injurious behavior. What recommendation would you make to the independent charter school who contracted you to do the assessment?

- A. Social Skills training
- B. PECS training
- C. Applied Behavior Analysis to manage the self-injurious behavior
- D. All of the above

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### The LEP Exam



- Answer

C. Applied Behavior Analysis to manage the self-injurious behavior

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## The LEP Exam



- Practice Questions:
- You are making business cards. Which of the following are legal ways to identify yourself?
  - A. John Doe, Educational Psychologist
  - B. John Doe, LEP 1234
  - C. John Doe, Licensed Educational Psychologist
  - D. John Doe, MS, LEP

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## The LEP Exam



- Answer
- B. John Doe, LEP 1234

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## Taking the LEP Exam



- Remember your test taking strategies
  - Multiple choice test
  - Eliminate obvious wrong answers
  - Pace yourself, be aware of the time
  - There are both short questions, and longer, scenario questions
  - Use relaxation techniques
    - Deep breathing
    - Visualization

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## Taking the LEP Exam



- You have about 1 minute per question, but need to factor in time for review
- Pace yourself – use time markers (e.g. finish #20 between 25 to 30 minutes, #40 by 50 to 60 minutes, #60 by 80 to 90 minutes, etc.) – plan on 10-15 minutes for review
- If you cannot decide on an answer, choose and then select “mark” so you can go back and review the response at the end of the test
  - You can make comments on answers by selecting “comments”
- Eliminate obvious wrong answers
- When answering questions about treatment – look for answer choices that include both medication and therapy/behavior modifications

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## Taking the LEP Exam



- Pay attention to key words such as “always” and “never”
- Make sure you answer the question asked
  - Understand the test question, then only answer what is being asked (nothing more and nothing less)
- Use the entire 2 ½ hours
  - If you finish early, take a short break then review your answer choices. There are no extra points for finishing early
- If you fail the test, write down everything you remember about the test so you can study it again
  - You will get a score report indicating your correct responses and your performance on each section

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## Taking the LEP Exam



- BBS feels your knowledge and experience should be enough to pass the exam
  - Focus on the LEP Written Examination Plan in the candidate handbook
- Use common sense
- Your first reaction is usually correct. Do not over think it!
- Brush up on Content Areas you are less comfortable with
  - Break out your Grad School text books

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## Questions and Answers



- Thanks for coming, it has been a pleasure!

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