

## **REGULATORY ADVISORY**

### **California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Section 138(h)**

#### **Update to TOEFL iBT Scoring Scale for Examination**

**Educational Testing Service (ETS) Operative Date:** January 21, 2026

#### **Attention Board of Psychology (Board) stakeholders:**

ETS is implementing a revised Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) scoring scale effective January 21, 2026.

#### **Summary of Changes**

Under the new score system, an applicant's overall TOEFL score will be calculated as the average of the four section scores and rounded to the nearest 0.5 band on a 1.0–6.0 scale. ETS's published conversion guidance indicates that a prior numeric score of 85 corresponds to a band score of 4.25, which rounds to 4.5 under the new scale.

#### **Implementation**

To maintain alignment with ETS's updated scoring system, the Board of Psychology (Board) is amending California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, section 1388(h) to replace the prior TOEFL score threshold of **85** with the equivalent revised score of **4.5**. This update is technical and non-substantive, does not change eligibility criteria or requirements for examination accommodation, and does not alter examination standards or processes.

Applicant requesting additional time as an examination accommodation, stating under penalty of perjury that English is their second language, must continue to follow existing procedures for requesting examination accommodations. TOEFL iBT score reports must also continue to be sent directly to the Board by the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Based on the new scoring scale of the TOEFL iBT implemented by the ETS, TOEFL iBT score reports will be provided to the Board as follows:

#### **TOEFL taken before January 21, 2026**

TOEFL iBT scores will be reported on the former 0–120 scale. If the applicant's only TOEFL test date occurred before January 21, 2026, a score of 85—the established equivalent of 4.5 on the new 1.0–6.0 scale—is considered the threshold for eligibility for an additional-time examination accommodation request.

#### **TOEFL taken on or after January 21, 2026**

TOEFL iBT scores will be reported on the new 1.0–6.0 scale. A score of 4.5 on this scale is considered the threshold for eligibility for an examination accommodation request. Beginning January 21, 2026, ETS will also include an estimated comparable score on the former 0–120 scale for reference during a two-year transition period.

#### **TOEFL taken before and on or after January 21, 2026**

When TOEFL is taken both before and on or after January 21, 2026, TOEFL iBT scores, including the MyBest score, will be reported on the 1.0-6.0 scale. The Board relies on the MyBest score as the applicable score for determining eligibility. A score of **4.5** on this scale is considered the threshold for eligibility for an additional-time examination accommodation request.