

# **Preparation for the PPST Reading Exam**

---

Contained within this section are some suggestions and tips to help you maneuver through the computer and paper-based reading tests.



---

- Objective:

- ❖ To gain a better understanding of the reading strategies that will allow the test-taker to be successful.



# PPST Reading Exam

- Paper-Based
  - ❖ 60 minutes
  - ❖ 40 questions
  - ❖ Multiple-choice based on passages and statements
- Computerized
  - ❖ 75 minutes
  - ❖ 46 questions
  - ❖ Multiple-choice based on passages and statements

\*\*\*Both forms of the reading test measure the ability to understand, analyze, and evaluate written messages. There will be passages and statements followed by a series of questions that are based on its content. All questions can be answered using the information contained within the passage; no question requires outside knowledge.



# **PPST Reading Exam**

The PPST Reading test will cover many different categories. A brief description follows:

❖ Literal Comprehension questions will measure the ability to understand what is directly stated in written messages

- Main Ideas
- Supporting Ideas
- Organization
- Vocabulary in Context

❖ Critical and Inferential Comprehension will measure the ability to evaluate a passage and its message

- Evaluation
- Inferential Reasoning
- Generalization



# PPST Reading Exam

- Reading quickly will obviously help you to move through the exam with ease and allow you time to go back over any questions you needed to skip. Here are a few tips to speed up your reading.
  1. Relax
  2. Tune out background noise
  3. Stay flexible
  4. If you're pressed for time skim the passage
  5. Skip filler words such as: the, of, for, etc.
  6. Practice speed reading at home to check comprehension, but remember this is an "open book" test



# **PPST Reading Exam**

- The following information provides general information about the different categories that are found on the test. Each test has different passages and questions, but the themes and styles are similar.



# PPST Reading Exam

## ❖ Main Ideas

- Identifying the primary purpose of a reading selection

- ❖ Questions will use words such as: primary purpose, main idea, or reason

## ❖ Supporting Ideas

- Examples or summaries that support the main idea

## ❖ Vocabulary in Context

- Identifying the meanings of words in the context of passage

## ❖ Organization

- Identifying how the passage is organized
  - ❖ Cause/effect
  - ❖ Compare/contrast
  - ❖ Problem/solution
  - ❖ Etc.



# PPST Reading Exam

## ❖ Evaluation

- Does evidence strengthen or weaken arguments
- What role does idea, reference, or information play in author's discussion
- Is there a relationship between ideas

## ❖ Inferential Reasoning

- What inferences can be drawn from the reading

- What logical assumptions are the argument or conclusion based on
- What is the author's attitude toward the material

## ❖ Generalization

- Realize ideas that are extensions of the passage
- What conclusions can be drawn from the material
- Apply ideas presented to other situations.



# **Examples of Test Questions**

- Examples can be found at the Educational Testing service website:  
[www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).