

**BEFORE THE SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY  
BOARD OF THE STATE OF IOWA**

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| <p><b>In the Matter of the<br/>Petition for Rule Waiver by:</b></p> <p><b>MICALA ANDREASSEN</b></p> <p><b>Petitioner.</b></p> | <p><b>ORDER GRANTING WAIVER 26-0002</b></p> |
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Pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.9A and Iowa Administrative Code rule 481—6.5, the Iowa Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology (“Board”) makes the following ruling on the Petition for Waiver submitted by Micala Andreassen (“Petitioner”).

**FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

1. Petitioner submitted a Petition for Waiver on or about April 27, 2026.
2. Petitioner seeks to waive Iowa Administrative Code rule 481—740.4, which specifies that an applicant for licensure will take the Praxis Examination in speech pathology and have the examination scores sent directly to the Board from the Educational Testing Service.
3. At the time Petitioner submitted the Petition for Waiver, rule 481—740.4 read:

**481—740.4(147) Examination requirements.** The examination required by the board will be the Praxis Examination in speech pathology or audiology. This examination is administered by the Educational Testing Service. The applicant will make arrangements to take the Praxis Examination in speech pathology or audiology and pay all expenses associated with taking the examination. The applicant will have the examination scores sent directly to the board from the Educational Testing Service
4. Petitioner is seeking her Iowa speech pathology license. She took the Praxis Examination in June of 2009 and received a passing score. The Educational Testing Service (ETS) does not keep records beyond 10 years, so they are not able to submit her Praxis score directly to the Board.
5. At the time the Petitioner took the Praxis Examination, her scores were sent directly to the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) by ETS. For purposes of Petitioner’s current application for licensure, UNI then sent Petitioner’s Praxis scores to the Board.

6. The Board considered the Petition for Waiver at its meeting on April 30, 2026.

### **APPLICABLE LAW**

7. Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code chapter 481—6.5, the Board may in its sole discretion issue an order waiving in whole or in part the requirements of a rule if the board finds, based on clear and convincing evidence, all of the following:
  - a. The application of the rule would impose an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested;
  - b. The waiver from the requirements of the rule in the specific case would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person;
  - c. The provisions of the rule subject to the petition for waiver are not specifically mandated by statute or another provision of law; and
  - d. Substantially equal protection of public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule for which the waiver is requested.
8. “The burden of persuasion rests with the Petitioner to demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the board should exercise its discretion to grant a waiver from a board rule.” Iowa Admin. Code r. 481—6.11(2).
9. “The final decision on whether the circumstances justify the granting of a waiver shall be made at the sole discretion of the board, upon consideration of all relevant factors.” Iowa Admin. Code r. 481-6.11(1). “Each petition for a waiver shall be evaluated by the board based on the unique, individual circumstances set out in the petition.” *Id.* at. 481-6.11(5)(a). “A waiver, if granted, shall provide the narrowest exception possible to the provisions of a rule.” *Id.* at. 481-6.11(5)(b).

### **ANALYSIS OF WAIVER CRITERIA**

#### **Whether the application of the rule would create an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested:**

10. The Board finds that application of the rule would create an undue hardship for the Petitioner because she would be required to take the Praxis Examination again.

#### **Whether the waiver from the requirements of the rule in the specific case would prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person:**

11. The Board finds that granting the waiver will not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person. The Board finds that because the Petitioner’s Praxis scores were sent directly from ETS to UNI, and then directly from UNI to the Board, the scores can be relied upon to the

same degree as if they were sent directly from ETS to the Board.

**Whether the provision of the rule subject to the petition for waiver is not specifically mandated by another provision of law:**

12. The requirement for the Praxis scores to be sent directly from ETS to the Board found in the Board's administrative rule is not specifically mandated by statute.

**Whether substantially equal protection of the public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule for which the waiver is requested:**

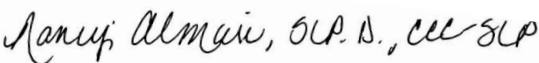
13. The public health, safety, and welfare will not be adversely affected by granting this waiver. The Board, in reliance upon the scores sent from UNI, has reason to believe Petitioner received a passing score on the Praxis Exam as required for licensure as a speech pathologist in Iowa.

**PETITIONER HAS MET THE CRITERIA TO WAIVE RULE 481—740.4. THE RULE WAIVER IS GRANTED.**

Upon review of the Petition, the Board finds that Petitioner has satisfied the four criteria for waiver of the educational requirements for licensure.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** the Petition for Waiver of the requirement to send Praxis Examination scores directly from ETS to the Board under Iowa Administrative Code rule 481—740.4 is hereby **GRANTED**. The waiver shall be valid indefinitely.

Issued April 30, 2026.

  
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Chair, Iowa Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology