

College of Education
Department of Educational Leadership
Comprehensive Exam Study Guide 2025-2026
EdD PreK-12

Each essay response should be between 350-400 words in length and must incorporate relevant theories, concepts, and research findings. Use appropriate terminology, conceptual frameworks, and reference authorities in the field when necessary.

Area A: The Profession of Educational Administration

1. Discuss the evolving roles and responsibilities of educational administrators in PreK-12 settings, and analyze the impact of these changes on the profession. **(350-400 words)**
2. Examine the ethical and professional standards that guide the practice of educational administration, and discuss strategies for promoting a culture of integrity and accountability within schools. **(350-400 words)**
3. Analyze the importance of professional development and lifelong learning for educational administrators, and discuss strategies for staying current with best practices and emerging trends in the field. **(350-400 words)**
4. Evaluate the impact of technology on the roles and responsibilities of educational administrators, and propose strategies for leveraging technology to support effective leadership and management. **(350-400 words)**

Area B: Research

1. Evaluate the role of research in informing educational policy and practice in PreK-12 settings, and discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with translating research findings into actionable strategies. **(350-400 words)**
2. Analyze the importance of data-driven decision-making in educational administration, and discuss the skills and tools needed to effectively collect, analyze, and interpret data to support school improvement efforts. **(350-400 words)**
3. Examine the ethical considerations associated with conducting research in PreK-12 settings, and discuss strategies for ensuring the protection of human subjects and the confidentiality of data. **(350-400 words)**
4. Discuss the role of action research in promoting reflective practice and continuous improvement in PreK-12 schools, and propose strategies for engaging teachers and other stakeholders in the research process. **(350-400 words)**

Area C: Planning for Educational Change

1. Discuss the key elements of effective educational change management, and analyze the role of leadership in driving and sustaining meaningful improvements in PreK-12 schools. **(350-400 words)**
2. Examine the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing educational reforms and innovations, and propose strategies for overcoming resistance to change and building stakeholder support. (350-400 words)
3. Analyze the importance of strategic planning in educational administration, and discuss the processes and tools used to develop and implement effective school improvement plans. **(350-400 words)**
4. Evaluate the impact of external factors, such as political, economic, and social trends, on educational change efforts, and propose strategies for adapting to these challenges. (350-400 words)

Area D: Leadership

1. Analyze the various leadership theories and styles that are relevant to educational administration, and discuss their implications for effective school management and improvement. **(350-400 words)**
2. Discuss the importance of distributed leadership in PreK-12 settings, and examine strategies for building the capacity of teachers and other school staff to assume leadership roles and responsibilities. (350-400 words)
3. Examine the role of emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills in effective educational leadership, and propose strategies for developing these competencies. **(350-400 words)**
4. Evaluate the impact of leadership on student achievement and school culture, and discuss evidence-based practices for promoting positive outcomes in these areas. (350-400 words)

Area E: Legal Aspects of Educational Administration

1. Examine the key legal issues facing PreK-12 educational administrators, such as student rights, special education, and employment law, and discuss their implications for school policies and practices. **(350-400 words)**
2. Analyze the role of educational administrators in ensuring compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, and discuss the potential consequences of non-compliance. (350-400 words)
3. Discuss the legal and ethical considerations associated with student discipline and behavior management, and propose strategies for promoting a safe and positive learning environment. **(350-400 words)**
4. Evaluate the impact of recent court decisions and legislative actions on PreK-12 education policies and practices, and propose strategies for adapting to these changes. (350-400 words)

Area F: Financial Aspects of Educational Administration

1. Discuss the various sources of funding for PreK-12 schools and the challenges associated with maintaining financial stability in an era of limited resources and increasing demands. **(350-400 words)**
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of different budgeting models and financial management strategies in PreK-12 settings, and propose recommendations for improving financial sustainability and efficiency. (350-400 words)

3. Analyze the impact of resource allocation decisions on educational equity and student outcomes, and discuss strategies for ensuring that all students have access to high-quality educational opportunities. (350-400 words)
4. Examine the role of grants and external funding in supporting educational programs and initiatives, and discuss the processes and skills needed to effectively secure and manage these resources. (350-400 words)

Rubric for EdD PreK-12 Study Guide:

1. Depth of Knowledge (25%):

- 5 points: The response demonstrates a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the subject matter, providing a wealth of relevant examples, evidence, and insights.
- 4 points: The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the subject matter, providing relevant examples and evidence to support the arguments presented.
- 3 points: The response demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the subject matter, providing some examples and evidence to support the arguments presented.
- 2 points: The response demonstrates a limited understanding of the subject matter, providing few examples or evidence to support the arguments presented.
- 1 point: The response demonstrates a lack of understanding of the subject matter, providing no relevant examples or evidence to support the arguments presented.

2. Critical Analysis (25%):

- 5 points: The response provides a highly insightful and critical analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering innovative and well-reasoned arguments and solutions.
- 4 points: The response provides a thorough and critical analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering well-reasoned arguments and solutions.
- 3 points: The response provides a satisfactory analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering some arguments and solutions.
- 2 points: The response provides a limited analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering few arguments or solutions.
- 1 point: The response provides no critical analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering no arguments or solutions.

3. Organization and Clarity (20%):

- 5 points: The response is exceptionally well-organized, clear, and concise, with a logical flow of ideas and smooth transitions between paragraphs.
- 4 points: The response is well-organized, clear, and concise, with a logical flow of ideas and smooth transitions between paragraphs.
- 3 points: The response is adequately organized and clear, with a somewhat logical flow of ideas and transitions between paragraphs.
- 2 points: The response is poorly organized and lacks clarity, with a disjointed flow of ideas and abrupt transitions between paragraphs.
- 1 point: The response is disorganized and unclear, with no logical flow of ideas or transitions between paragraphs.

4. Writing Mechanics (15%):

- 5 points: The response demonstrates excellent grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with no errors and follows the specified word count requirements.
- 4 points: The response demonstrates good grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with few errors and follows the specified word count requirements.
- 3 points: The response demonstrates adequate grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with some errors and follows the specified word count requirements.
- 2 points: The response demonstrates poor grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with many errors and does not follow the specified word count requirements.
- 1 point: The response demonstrates unacceptable grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with numerous errors and does not follow the specified word count requirements.

5. Relevance and Applicability (15%):

- 5 points: The response is highly relevant to the field of PreK-12 educational administration and offers practical, insightful, and actionable recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 4 points: The response is relevant to the field of PreK-12 educational administration and offers practical insights and recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 3 points: The response is somewhat relevant to the field of PreK-12 educational administration and offers some insights and recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 2 points: The response is minimally relevant to the field of PreK-12 educational administration and offers few insights or recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 1 point: The response is not relevant to the field of PreK-12 educational administration and offers no insights or recommendations that can be applied in educational settings.