

Unofficial Report of Major Actions
Psychometric Research & Examination
Content Development Meeting of the
Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations
May 7, 2026

The Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) met on Friday, April 24, 2026, for its annual Psychometric Research & Examination Content Development meeting and took the following actions:

1. Discussed the recent formal agreement between the American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX), and expressed the JCNDE's strong support of this agreement. Integrating the JCNDE's Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) into the ADEX Dental Examination, as specified in the agreement, will benefit public health by further strengthening the clinical assessment process. This agreement also simplifies licensure pathways and supports dental licensure portability. The JCNDE had participated in collaborative discussions leading to this agreement, which was announced via a [press release](#) on April 14, 2026. Important aspects of this agreement include the following:
 - a) The DLOSCE will be incorporated directly into the ADEX Dental Examination, replacing ADEX' current OSCE Component (i.e., the ADEX DSE OSCE).
 - b) The ADEX Dental Examination will continue to assess candidates' clinical hand skills, but will now also benefit from the DLOSCE's assessment of professional clinical judgment.
 - c) The JCNDE will continue to serve as the governing body overseeing the DLOSCE.
 - d) The JCNDE is a Commission of the ADA, operating as a semi-autonomous agency of the ADA in accordance with the JCNDE's assigned *Bylaws* duties. The ADA continues to serve as the legal owner of the DLOSCE.
 - e) ADEX will sunset its DSE OSCE no later than August 1, 2026. Subsequent to sunset of the DSE OSCE, all ADEX Dental Examination administrations will include the DLOSCE.
 - f) The only individuals permitted to take the DLOSCE at this time are prior DLOSCE registrants, including those who have previously failed the examination. No other registrations can be accepted.
 - g) Prior registrants may retake the DLOSCE through the close of the JCNDE's published DLOSCE test administration window that began on April 21, 2026.
 - h) Candidates who are not prior registrants who wish to take the DLOSCE may do so as part of the ADEX Dental Examination when it becomes available (approximately August 1, 2026). The ADEX Dental Examination will include the DLOSCE, as well as additional components that directly assess candidate hand skills.

The JCNDE truly appreciates the tremendous support of stakeholders and communities of interest who have embraced the DLOSCE.

2. Reviewed and refined the strategic roadmap for the dental examination programs of the JCNDE, to help ensure continued innovation and advancement. This includes the following activities:
 - a. Integrating the DLOSCE into the ADEX Dental Examination, as noted above.
 - b. Conducting a dental practice analysis in 2026 and 2027, to inform future updates to the

- examination content domains for the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) and DLOSCE.
- c. Considering potential implementation of multi-stage adaptive testing for the INBDE as a means of shortening the INBDE and increasing test security, while still maintaining strong psychometric properties.
 - d. Convening panels of subject matter experts in 2027 to consider the results of the dental practice analysis and recommend corresponding updates to the INBDE and DLOSCE test specifications.
 - e. Convening panels of subject matter experts in 2028 to recommend new performance standards for the INBDE and DLOSCE, factoring in any updates to the test specifications.
3. Reviewed and refined the strategic roadmap for the dental hygiene examination programs of the JCNDE, to help ensure continued innovation and advancement. This includes the following activities:
 - a. Conducting standard setting activities for the Dental Hygiene Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DHLOSCE), and reporting DHLOSCE results to candidates and state boards.
 - b. Implementing three-parameter logistic (3PL) model scoring for the NBDHE in 2026, concurrent with the implementation of updated NBDHE test specifications and an updated NBDHE performance standard. 3PL scoring will provide a more accurate and precise estimate of a candidate's skill level, thereby further improving the quality of information available to dental and dental hygiene boards as they make licensure decisions using the NBDHE.
 - c. Implementing multi-stage adaptive testing for the NBDHE, which is anticipated to occur in 2028. The introduction of multi-stage adaptive testing will shorten the NBDHE and further enhance test security, without sacrificing the precision of NBDHE results.
 - d. Conducting a dental hygiene practice analysis in 2029, to inform future updates to the examination content domains for the NBDHE and DHLOSCE.
 5. Appointed new JCNDE Test Constructors and reappointed currently serving Test Constructors in support of the examination programs of the JCNDE. The JCNDE expressed its heartfelt thanks to Test Constructors for their exceptional work. The Joint Commission's examinations would not be possible without these exceptional individuals who work incredibly hard in service to their profession and the public.
 6. Approved the formation of a workgroup to review the JCNDE's Dental Hygiene test constructor selection criteria and recommend revisions to the criteria, for consideration by the JCNDE at its upcoming Governance, Policies, & Administration meeting.
 7. Approved the following technical reports used to monitor and report on the quality and performance of the National Board Examinations:
 - a. INBDE Technical Report
 - b. NBDHE Technical Report
 - c. DLOSCE Technical Report
 8. Addressed administrative matters, including approval of prior meeting minutes and future meeting dates. The next policy-making meeting of the JCNDE will be the annual Governance, Policies, & Administration meeting on June 24, 2026. The next annual State Dental Board Forum will occur on August 14, 2026.

Dr. M. Reza Iranmanesh (ADA) Chair
Dr. Alberto Gasparoni (ADEA) Vice-chair
Dr. Brad Cherry (AADB)
Michelle Chiang (ASDA)
Dr. Sara Gordon (ADEA)
Tami Grzesikowski (ADHA)
Dr. A.R. Hendricksen (AADB)
Betty Kabel (ADHA)
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Dr. Cindy Lyon (ADEA)
Dr. Julia K. Mikell (AADB)
Dr. Hiba Qari (ADEA)
Dr. James R. Sherrard (Public Member)
Dr. Ronald Waryjas (ADA)

Dr. James Mercer, ADA Board Liaison
Emily Bone, ASDA Student Observer