A Performance-Based Approach to License Teacher Candidates And Support Program Improvement

States and teacher preparation programs are looking for new ways to develop and evaluate teaching effectiveness and improve their programs. Increasingly, they are focusing on authentic assessments of how teacher candidates develop and evaluate student learning. edTPA™ represents this historic shift as the first nationally available, research- and standards-based support and assessment program that can serve as a common and external measure of candidate performance and teacher quality.

edTPA complements existing entry-level assessments used by states that focus on basic skills or subject matter knowledge and campus-based evaluations of clinical practice, coursework, grades and curriculum-embedded assessments of candidate performance. Developed by the profession for the profession, edTPA is available in 27 initial licensure areas. After a two-year period of field testing, it now can be used for teacher licensure, as part of state and national program accreditation and to guide program improvement. It is comparable to entry-level assessments in other professions such as the bar exam in law, medical licensing exams and the architectural registration exam.

edTPA is aligned with Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) standards, state professional teaching standards, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standards and the Common Core State Standards. edTPA provides meaningful data to support teacher education programs as they evaluate, reflect on and continually improve their programs to ensure a relevant, integrated curriculum centered on student learning.

How Does It Work?

The edTPA process is built around three-to-five continuous days of standards-based, subject-specific classroom instruction delivered by a candidate, typically at the end of the student teaching or clinical experience.

edTPA is a multiples-measure assessment of teaching – built and submitted by the candidate – that addresses planning, instruction, assessment and analyzing teaching. It includes unedited video recordings of the candidate teaching and examples of teaching materials (plans, teaching tools, assignments) that demonstrate how the candidate planned instruction, adapted it for diverse learners – attending both to subject specific learning and the development of academic language – and assessed student work.

Each assessment is scored by qualified and trained teachers and teacher educators who are subject matter experts with experience supporting beginning teachers. Half of current scorers are recruited from higher education and half are recruited from P-12 educators, including National Board Certified Teachers.

By the Profession for the Profession

The assessment draws from experience gained over a 25-year history developing performance-based assessments of teaching, including the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the InTASC portfolio and the Performance Assessment for California Teachers (PACT). Hundreds of teachers and teacher education faculty have been involved at every stage of development and continue to participate in a professional learning community that supports edTPA implementation. The Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity, in partnership with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, provide a rich array of implementation support materials – including local evaluation training, curriculum mapping and embedded assessment design, webinars on academic language, resources for cooperating teachers and orientations for candidates. A National Academy of edTPA experts provides implementation consultation and face-to-face scoring training in key states.

What is the status of edTPA?

edTPA has been tried out nationally since the beginning of the 2012 academic year. edTPA underwent field testing

with more than 12,000 teacher candidates during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years. The field test data showed that edTPA is a rigorous, valid assessment that is scored reliably.

Information from the field tests was used to fine tune assessment tasks, scoring rubrics and candidate handbooks and, with the assistance of a standard-setting panel of educators and psychometricians, determine a recommended professional performance standard. edTPA was declared fully operational in September 2013. Evaluation Systems, a unit of Pearson, provides the necessary technical infrastructure to distribute, collect and manage scoring.

Seven states – Georgia, Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin – have adopted policies for using edTPA. Other states, including Illinois and Ohio, are considering edTPA policies at the state level. Campuses in 19 additional states and the District of Columbia continue to pilot the assessment. These states are considering edTPA as a preparation requirement for new teachers, as a formal requirement for licensure or as part of institutional accreditations.

The Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity, in partnership with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, led the development of edTPA with collaboration from more than 500 design team members and reviewers from institutions of higher education nationwide. Today, more than 480 institutions of higher education in 33 states plus the District of Columbia participate in edTPA.

Helping to Meet Education's Top Priority
The most important thing we can do to help students is to provide an effective teacher in every classroom. But the growing number of new teachers and high rate of teacher turnover make this a challenge.

The nation's teaching force is younger than it has been in decades. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, at least 15 percent of teachers have three or fewer years of experience. The number of teachers entering the profession each year has been at its highest in recent history. Preparing these new teachers for success is more important than ever. edTPA is an educative process that builds on the latest research on teaching quality and supports preparation programs to increase their focus on student learning and the skills and abilities that improve teaching and student performance.

Supporting Change in Teacher Preparation
edTPA will provide evidence of a teacher's readiness to enter the profession that can be acted upon to support program improvement. The feedback provided to teacher candidates and institutions will support ongoing inquiry and professional learning.

edTPA also supports performance-based state teacher licensure systems by offering a common standard for teacher performance in the classroom as part of a system of multiple measures. Until now, completion of most state preparation programs relied primarily upon seat time in coursework, local clinical evaluation and the results of subject-matter assessments. Teacher preparation program models have evolved, with a range of approaches at the graduate and undergraduate levels along with alternative teacher preparation programs and new online delivery systems. It has been difficult, however, for states to maintain a credentialing system that represents a common standard of knowledge, skills and abilities with documented validity of their relation to the tasks of a classroom teacher that is comparable across institutions.

edTPA offers a rigorous measure of entry-level teaching skills and readiness for the classroom – regardless of the path candidates take to teaching – that can be used across programs, focusing attention on the capacity to teach.

States with edTPA Policies or Institutions Participating in edTPA

Arizona	District of Columbia	Indiana	Missouri	Oregon	Texas
Arkansas	Florida	Iowa	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	Virginia
California	Georgia	Maryland	New York	Rhode Island	Washington
Colorado	Hawaii	Massachusetts	North Carolina	South Carolina	Wisconsin
Connecticut	Idaho	Michigan	Ohio	Tennessee	Wyoming
Delaware	Illinois	Minnesota	Oklahoma		

For more information about edTPA, visit: edtpa.aacte.org

For registration, candidate resource materials, and portfolio submission information, visit: edTPA.com