



Frequently Asked Questions About the edTPA

What is different about the edTPA?

The edTPA requires teacher candidates to demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to enter the classroom ready to help all their students learn.

By focusing on the act of teaching, the edTPA complements existing entry-level examinations that focus on basic skills and subject matter knowledge.

It is comparable to the licensing requirements in other professions such as medicine, architecture, engineering and law.

Why is this being done?

Washington state has adopted the edTPA in response to legislative direction. The primary goal is to build on the strong foundation that exists in Washington to further improve the teacher preparation process, which will benefit schools and their students, teacher candidates and schools of higher education.

Washington's schools need new teachers and our students need these new teachers to start their careers ready to ensure that all students are learning in their classrooms. By shifting the focus of teacher assessment to evidence of student learning, the edTPA will help accelerate the process of ensuring these new teachers are ready for the classroom.

Who will be affected by the edTPA?

Teacher candidates will be held to a common set of expectations for all new teachers in a student-focused classroom setting. The edTPA process is intended to accelerate the process of becoming an effective teacher and help candidates develop the confidence and skills they need to be successful in a variety of school settings serving students with diverse needs.

Teacher preparation programs will use data and evidence from the edTPA to help them focus curriculum and classroom experiences on the skills and habits that improve teaching and student performance.

Mentor teachers will share a common expectation for the culminating experiences of student teaching and better understand their role in the process of helping teacher candidates successfully complete this process. The edTPA brings a new sense of shared ownership in the outcome of the student teaching experience.

School administrators will have greater assurance that teachers can positively impact student performance. The edTPA process gives potential employers a baseline for teacher candidates based on a common set of expectations and standards.

Does the Professional Education Standards Board have the authority to adopt the edTPA?

Washington state law requires the Professional Education Standards Board to implement a performance assessment as part of the teacher preparation experience. In collaboration with the Washington Associate of Colleges for Teacher Education, the Professional Education Standards Board selected the edTPA as the required assessment.

How are programs changing to accommodate the edTPA?

The teacher preparation programs at Washington State University have already made significant changes to their curriculum and clinical experiences to align with the expectations of the edTPA.

Teacher candidates must video themselves teaching and collect student work samples. Programs are working with schools to ensure that permissions are in place and that student images and work are kept secure.

A significant focus in the preparation of teacher candidates is a focus on academic language development and student voice. New teachers must learn how to actively teach students the specialized language structures and uses of the content subjects they teach, and also (needs some editing) on eliciting student voice.

What does the edTPA evaluate?

The edTPA is a multiple measure assessment that covers critical areas of teaching: planning, instruction, analysis of teaching, assessment, academic language, and student voice. These areas have been shown by research to be critical to student learning. The edTPA uses actual teaching materials to evaluate teaching and student learning in these areas such as lesson plans, assignments, teacher resources, video and authentic assessments of learning.

Will each teacher candidate's scores be available?

Official score reports are provided to the teacher candidate, their preparation program, and to the state of Washington. Beyond that, the scores are owned by the candidate, who can decide to share them or not.

What does research say?

We know that the best way to improve student learning is to put an effective teacher in every classroom. We also know that well prepared teachers are more likely to be effective and stay in the profession, thus reducing the high turnover that plagues many of our schools.

There is also sufficient agreement in the field that teacher performance assessments aligned with standards (such as the National Board Certification assessments) improve teacher performance and predict their future students' achievement gains. Additionally, teaching skills evaluated by edTPA have been shown to help improve student learning.

Washington and other states implementing the edTPA will continue to collect data and study the effectiveness of the edTPA specifically and performance assessment in general.

When do teacher candidates complete the edTPA?

At Washington State University, teacher candidates complete the edTPA during their student teaching semester. The edTPA is not a test or a single assignment, but a thorough and demanding process that takes several weeks to complete.

Candidates will not be alone. They will be supported throughout the process by faculty members, field supervisors, and mentor teachers. Many teacher candidates also set up formal and informal opportunities to support each other and share their experiences.

Who scores the edTPA?

All scorers are recruited and selected because of their documented experience with beginning teachers and expertise in the subject matter content. They are carefully trained to make objective, comparable and valid evaluations of teaching skills and readiness for the classroom.

The scoring process is facilitated by Pearson. Scorers include teacher educators from the programs participating in the edTPA as well as qualified experienced teachers and school administrators. They are trained using materials developed by Stanford University.

Who pays for the edTPA?

At Washington State University, the teacher candidate is responsible for paying \$300 to submit their edTPA assessment and have it scored by Pearson. The fee covers the cost of registration, online resources, certified scorers and their training, calibration over time to ensure the reliability of scoring and the infrastructure needed to process and report candidate scores and protect their security.

How will the edTPA results be incorporated into the teacher hiring process?

All teacher candidates in the state of Washington must pass the edTPA prior to being issued their initial teaching certificate. The candidate may share their score report with a potential employer, but materials submitted including the video are not to be shared outside of the edTPA process. Beyond the scores, candidates who perform well on the edTPA will have a more sophisticated understanding of teaching and learning, and interview questions should be able to tap into the impact of the edTPA on their readiness to teach.

How does the video work?

The video is just one of several edTPA components that will be evaluated. Candidates will be asked to provide a continuous, 15-20 minute excerpt to show their performance in the classroom. Research supports that a 15-20 minute video is highly correlated with what you'd find in a longer video. Candidates get to choose the video that best represents their teaching performance and can select the portion of recorded classroom teaching that is most appropriate for the edTPA submission.

Who has access to the video?

The edTPA process has been designed from the ground up to protect privacy and confidentiality. Each teacher candidate must agree in advance that the video cannot be shared or posted on any public site. The video submitted by each teacher candidate cannot contain the candidate's full name, the names of the mentor teacher, school or district, or the last names of the students. Once submitted for assessment, video recordings are secured behind a firewall with encryption security and can be reviewed only by authorized Pearson users such as scorers and scorer supervisors or authorized Stanford University developers of the edTPA.

Washington State University candidates are also required to submit a full copy of their edTPA assessment plus video through a secure digital classroom interface with WSU that will be archived as part of their student record.

To view the edTPA confidentiality and security policy, visit:

<http://www.edtpa.com/Content/Docs/ConfidentialityAndSecurity.pdf>