



edTPA Research

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What is edTPA?

- edTPA is a performance-based, subject-specific assessment and support system used by teacher preparation programs throughout the United States to emphasize, measure, and support the skills and knowledge that all teachers need from Day 1 in the classroom.
- It is a subject-specific assessment that includes versions for 28 teaching fields.
 - The assessment features a common architecture focused on three tasks: Planning, Instruction, and Assessment.
- Aspiring teachers must prepare a portfolio of materials during their student teaching clinical experience.
 - edTPA requires aspiring teachers to demonstrate readiness to teach through lesson plans designed to support their students' strengths and needs; engage real students in ambitious learning; analyze whether their students are learning and adjust their instruction to become more effective.
- Teacher candidates submit unedited video recordings of themselves at work in a real classroom as part of a portfolio that is scored by highly trained educators.

edTPA Goals

As the first nationally accessible preservice teacher assessment and support program, edTPA:

- Improves student outcomes;
- Improves the information base guiding improvement of teacher preparation programs;
- Strengthens the information base for accreditation and evaluation of program effectiveness;
- Can be used in combination with other measures as a requirement for licensure; and
- Guides professional development for teachers across the career continuum.



Policy makers and the public demand an objective and trustworthy process to evaluate the performance of aspiring teachers before they lead an actual classroom. As the first nationally accessible teacher performance assessment, edTPA meets the following objectives:

- Help candidates develop the confidence and skills they need to be successful in urban, suburban, and rural schools.
- Provide a uniform and evidence-based process that can be used across states to confirm that aspiring teachers demonstrate their readiness for the classroom.
- Measure candidates' ability to differentiate instruction for diverse learners, including English language learners and special education students.
- Inform teacher licensure and recruitment.
- Provide meaningful and consistent data that can be used to improve and update teacher preparation programs and renew program curriculum.
- Allow states, school districts, and teacher preparation programs to share a common framework for defining and measuring teaching performance.
- Create a body of evidence about teacher performance that will ultimately establish a national standard for relevant and rigorous practice that advances student learning.

edTPA in Tennessee

Tennessee has statewide policies in place requiring a state-approved performance assessment as part of program completion or for state licensure and/or state program accreditation/review. Tennessee has approved edTPA as a performance assessment for these purposes.¹

Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, initial licensure applicants are required to submit qualifying scores on the appropriate edTPA assessments. The edTPA will replace the Professional Learning and Teaching (PLT) Praxis exam for most endorsement areas once it becomes a licensure requirement. Candidates enrolled in traditional educator preparation programs will be required to have qualifying edTPA scores prior to licensure. Educators entering the field through a job-embedded pathway must complete the edTPA with a qualifying score prior to renewing or advancing their license.²

¹ https://edtpa.org/policy_and_accreditation

² https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/licensure/ed-prep/edTPA_Info_for Districts_508CR.pdf



When do candidates complete the edTPA?

Candidates typically complete the edTPA during clinical practice (e.g., student teaching, internship or jobembedded preparation experience). Candidates work with their clinical mentor, clinical supervisor, and EPP faculty to determine a schedule for completion that is appropriate for the classroom and meets the necessary deadlines.³

What does edTPA require of candidates?

Candidates prepare a portfolio focused on three tasks—planning, instruction, and assessment strategies that are critical to providing effective instruction. In task 1, candidates develop 3-5 consecutive lesson plans and thoughtful commentary that describes their intended teaching. Task 2 requires unedited video recordings of the candidate’s teaching in a classroom, with an emphasis on instruction that engages and responds to the diverse needs of students. In task 3, candidates demonstrate the impact of their teaching on student learning. Candidates are required to use data to inform their instruction, and give effective feedback to students. Throughout the three tasks, candidates demonstrate their ability to develop their students’ academic language and to justify and analyze their own teaching.⁴

What are the main contents of the edTPA portfolio?

- Planning: Lesson plans, instructional materials, student assignments, assessments, commentary that justifies how plans meet student learning needs
- Instruction: Unedited video clips, commentary that analyzes student engagement in learning
- Assessment: Samples of student work, feedback to identified focus students, commentary that analyzes student learning and justifies next steps for teaching
- Analysis of teaching: Planning, instruction, and assessment commentaries
- Academic language: Unedited video clips and student work samples, planning and assessment commentaries⁵

³ https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/licensure/ed-prep/edTPA_Info_for Districts_508CR.pdf

⁴ https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/licensure/ed-prep/edTPA_Info_for Districts_508CR.pdf

⁵ https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/licensure/ed-prep/edTPA_Info_for Districts_508CR.pdf



edTPA Scoring

The edTPA assessment typically includes 15 rubrics, each of which is scored on a scale of five points, which sum to a total maximum possible score of 75. Following a multi-step standard-setting process in summer 2013, the standard-setting panel which consisted of educational stakeholders from K–12 and higher education recommended a score of 42 points as the professional performance standard (PPS).

For credential areas (e.g., World Language) that have fewer or more than the 15 rubrics, it is necessary to use an adjusted PPS because the total score differs. A proportional adjustment is made such that the average rubric score contribution to the total score is the same across fields.

For World Language and Classical Languages (13 scoring rubrics), 32–36 score points may be used as the professional performance standard range.

For Elementary Education: Literacy with Mathematics Task 4 and Elementary Education: Mathematics with Literacy Task 4 (18 scoring rubrics), 44–50 score points may be used as the professional performance standard range.⁶

States may set their own passing scores based on state standard-setting panels that take into account state-specific data, measurement data, and state's policy considerations. As discussed by the standard-setting panel members, states may consider setting their initial cut score lower than the panel-suggested PPS or their state-determined performance standard to give programs time to learn to deliver and support edTPA activities and to support candidates' preparation of their submissions. As warranted, the state performance standard can be raised over time.⁷

The Tennessee state performance standard has increased each year since 2018. A [helpful presentation](#) by the Tennessee State Board of Education does a great job at explaining the history of edTPA scoring in Tennessee.

The Tennessee State Board of Education has adopted the following edTPA qualifying standard, for the years 2021 and thereafter. The qualifying scores are as follows:⁸

edTPA Handbook Qualifying Score

13 Rubric Handbooks	36
15 Rubric Handbooks	42
18 Rubric Handbooks	50

For specific assessment areas and their qualifying scores in Tennessee, [see this document](#).

⁶ https://www.edtpa.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_PerformanceStandard.html

⁷ https://www.edtpa.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_PerformanceStandard.html

⁸ https://www.edtpa.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tennessee.html



Who scores edTPA?

Scorers include teacher educators from institutions participating in edTPA and qualified, experienced teachers and school administrators. All scorers are recruited and selected based on their experience with beginning teachers and their subject-matter/content expertise. Scorers are trained using materials developed by Stanford University. For more information about the assessment and its development, visit the SCALE website.⁹

What do district and building administrators need to know?

Placing candidates with effective clinical mentors in Tennessee schools is one significant way that school districts support the work of EPPs in building Tennessee's teacher pipeline. District and building administrators should know that:

- The videotaped lesson and student work samples are two major components in the candidates' edTPA portfolio that require parent permissions. All consent forms must be collected before a candidate records video of her/his teaching. For more information on the value of videotaped 4 lessons, review the AACTE PK-12 Administrators Privacy and Classroom Video Recording document.
- Districts should communicate with partner EPPs to review any existing district-based permission/consent forms to determine whether they are adequate or must be amended to the meet district or school requirements.
- Confidentiality and security are of great importance. EPPs can provide additional information about supporting candidates in following all security requirements.¹⁰

What is the cost of submitting edTPA?

- The cost of submitting edTPA is \$300.¹¹
- More information on Fees and Payments can be [found here](#).

⁹ https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/licensure/ed-prep/edTPA_Info_for_Districts_508CR.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/licensure/ed-prep/edTPA_Info_for_Districts_508CR.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.memphis.edu/tep/license/edtpa.php>



Fact Findings from TN State Board of Education

- When TN's edTPA cut score increased to 42 on January 1, 2021, Tennessee became the state with the highest cut score in the country.
- TN's average edTPA score has consistently been higher than the national average.
- As the number of people taking edTPA has increased, the average score has declined slightly.
- The score gap between white teachers and teachers of color appears to be closing.¹²

Additional edTPA Resources:

- [Tennessee State Board of Education Policy 5.105 – Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators](#)
- [Rules of the Tennessee Department of Education & State Board of Education – 0520-02-01 to 0520-02-07 State Board of Education Teacher Regulations](#)

¹² <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/2020-sbe-meetings/april-30%2C-2020-sbe-educator-preparation-%26-licensure-subcommittee-conference-call-meeting/4-30-2020%20edTPA%20Research%20%26%20Trends%20in%20TN.pdf>