



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

Gery J. Chico  
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

---

## edTPA: An Evidence-Based Assessment of Teacher Effectiveness

### What is edTPA™?

- The Illinois School Code **requires** that teacher preparation programs in Illinois begin phasing in an “evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness.” **As of Sept. 1, 2015, all teacher candidates for licensure will have to pass such an assessment in order to complete their teacher preparation programs and apply for licensure.**
- edTPA, an assessment designed by Stanford University, is the “evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness” that has been approved by the State Board of Education in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.
- edTPA has been piloted and/or implemented in various states around the country, including Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.
- edTPA is meant to serve as a capstone assessment and complements other assessments of teacher readiness required by ISBE and the candidate’s individual program of study.
- edTPA is designed to measure teacher candidate effectiveness in the classroom by focusing on student learning.
- edTPA includes a review of a teacher candidate's authentic teaching materials, including short video clips of instruction, lesson plans, student work samples, analysis of student learning and reflective commentaries.
- edTPA assessments are securely submitted via an electronic online platform and are scored by carefully selected evaluators, who include teacher education faculty, clinical supervisors, K-12 teachers, administrators and National Board Certified Teachers.

- edTPA is aligned with the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) standards, and various professional standards, depending on the subject area, including Common Core State Standards and Specialized Professional Association (SPA) standards. edTPA also aligns with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards.

### **What are the legal authorities and ISBE rules regarding edTPA?**

- The Illinois School Code provides, at 105 ILCS 5/21B-30(f): “Beginning on September 1, 2015, all candidates completing teacher preparation programs in this State are required to pass an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. All recognized institutions offering approved teacher preparation programs must begin phasing in the approved teacher performance assessment no later than July 1, 2013.”
- ISBE’s administrative rules, at 23 Ill. Adm. Code 25.720(e), provide: “Beginning September 1, 2015, each candidate completing an educator preparation program in a teaching field shall be required to pass the TPA (see Section 21B-30(f) of the School Code). 1) Each recognized institution offering approved teacher preparation programs shall administer the TPA during a candidate’s student teaching experience. 2) No later than July 1, 2013, each recognized institution offering an approved teacher preparation program shall begin using the TPA with at least some of its students; however, before September 1, 2015, an institution shall not require passage of the TPA as a condition for program completion for students participating in any limited implementation required under this subsection (e)(2) unless the institution requires that all candidates pass the assessment.”

### **How does edTPA affect school districts?**

- Teacher candidates will be completing edTPA during student teaching.
- Teacher candidates will be required to submit examples of their work in the classroom, including: video clip(s) of their instruction, examples of student work, and planning and assessment documentation.
  - **Video-clip(s):** Each teacher candidate will have to make arrangements to record him or herself teaching in the classroom. This component will generally consist of one or more clips totaling no more than 30 minutes.

- **Examples of student work:** Each teacher candidate will be required to submit examples of student work.
- **Planning and assessment documentation:** Each teacher candidate will be required to submit examples of the candidate's lesson planning and assessment of and feedback to students.

### **What can school districts do to support teacher candidates?**

- Because all teacher candidates in Illinois will soon be **required** to complete edTPA, school districts who host student teachers can do a variety of things to support this process:
  - Evaluate and review policies for the use of video and audio in your classrooms to determine whether current district procedures for obtaining parental permission are adequate.
  - Work with candidates to make sure that they understand district policy for recording and to secure parental permission for the video/audio recording and student work components.
  - Continue to collaborate with teacher preparation programs in ensuring mutually beneficial student teaching placements.
  - Cooperating teachers can support candidates by providing practical support, feedback, and assistance to teacher candidates during their student teaching experiences.
  - Seek additional information. If a district or school needs more information or does not understand a part of the edTPA process, ISBE encourages districts and schools to contact their Regional Offices of Education or ISBE directly. Helpful general information on edTPA is also available online at <http://edtpa.aacte.org/>.

### **Security and Privacy during the edTPA Process**

- ISBE recognizes that the use of technology where students may be video and audio recorded in the classroom presents concerns and challenges for parents and students as well as educators and administrators. Moreover, ISBE recognizes that submission of student work as part of the teacher candidate's portfolio may implicate privacy concerns for parents, students, and schools. In order to address these concerns, please consider the following:
  - ISBE has drafted a sample letter to parents, guardians, and students aged 18 or older, along with a release form to be completed regarding edTPA video and audio recording and student work submission process

and has provided this to Illinois teacher preparation programs. It is also attached here. While this form is not the only form by which candidates and programs can secure participant agreement, ISBE believes that the sample letter and release form reflect best practices for seeking agreement from parents, guardians, or students for students to participate in the assessment video and audio recording and submission of student work.

- ISBE encourages educator preparation programs to assist student teachers by making safe, secure video and audio recording options available to them. For instance, programs may wish to consider providing video cameras to student teachers for their use in completing the assessment rather than students utilizing their own devices, such as smart phones, to record their teaching. Programs may also wish to consider pursuing cooperation with the host school or district in utilizing school or district equipment for recording purposes. While neither of these approaches are required, ISBE believes that they reflect best practices for accomplishing this important assessment process while safeguarding the recorded material.
- ISBE encourages institutions and programs to include a provision in their student teaching agreements with teacher candidates that describes the expectations for the candidates' use, transmission, and destruction of classroom recordings for assessment.
- The materials gathered are submitted securely to the electronic platforms maintained by Pearson, where only scorers may securely access them. The scorers are not able to download or otherwise save the information provided for scoring.
- Pearson may maintain edTPA materials for a short period of time (usually 12-24 months) in order to preserve a record for scores that are challenged and to continue to review the effectiveness and validity of the assessment. The materials will then be destroyed.
- Video recordings can be structured to accommodate students whose parents do not consent to their child being video and audio recorded, such as by positioning the camera such that such students are not visible in the recording. Student materials are submitted without identifying information.
- Failure to ensure the confidentiality of materials obtained and submitted for edTPA may result in adverse action, including rejection of the candidate's application for licensure with ISBE.

## Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) – Release form for student participation

Dear Parent/Guardian or Student at least 18 years of age:

I am enrolled in the teacher preparation program at [University] and am currently student teaching in your child's classroom. Illinois participates in edTPA™, which means that, in order to complete my student teaching assignment, I have to complete an assessment called the Teacher Performance Assessment, conducted by Stanford University and Pearson, an education services company. This assessment includes submitting a video of me teaching a series of lessons in the classroom and examples of student work completed. In the course of recording my teaching, your child may appear on the video. I will gather samples of student work to submit as evidence of my teaching practice, which may include some of your child's work. This is not an assessment of your child's performance as the primary focus is on my instruction.

No student's name will appear on any materials that are submitted, and materials will be kept confidential at all times. The video recordings and student work I submit will not be made public in any way. Materials I submit will be reviewed by my program at [University]. My assessment materials may also be used by Stanford University and Pearson under secure conditions for edTPA program development and implementation, including scorer training, and to support continued program improvement activities such as future validity and reliability studies.

This form is a request for your consent to include both your child in the video and his or her class work. Please complete the bottom half of this page and retain the top for your reference. If you have any questions about the use of this video or your child's class work, please contact my academic advisor, [name], at [phone#].

Thank you for your consideration.

[name - printed and signature]

---

### RELEASE FORM FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's school: \_\_\_\_\_

I am the parent or legal guardian of the child named above. I have read and understand the project description given in the letter provided at the top of this form, and agree to the following (please check the appropriate line below):

I DO give permission to include my child's image and voice on video recordings and my child's class work for use in the Teacher Performance Assessment of [Student Teacher]. I understand that my child's name and any other personally identifiable information about my child will not appear on any of the submitted materials.

I DO NOT give permission to include my child's image and voice on video recordings and my child's class work for use in the Teacher Performance Assessment of [Student Teacher].

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am the student named above and am at least 18 years of age. I have read and understand the project description given at the letter provided at the top of this form, and agree to the following (please check the appropriate line below):

I am at least 18 years of age and DO give permission to include my image and voice on video recordings and my class work for use in the Teacher Performance Assessment of [Student Teacher]. I understand that my name and any other personally identifiable information about me will not appear on any of the submitted materials.

I am at least 18 years of age and DO NOT give permission to include my image and voice on video recordings and my class work for use in the Teacher Performance Assessment of [Student Teacher].

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_