

## Introducing edTPA to Minnesota Parents and Families

Minnesota has become a leader in a nationwide effort to better ensure that teachers begin their careers truly prepared to teach effectively. The newest step for Minnesota teachers is the edTPA™ assessment process, which requires teacher candidates to demonstrate the skills needed to enter the classroom ready to help all their students learn.

The Minnesota legislature has mandated the use of a performance-based assessment of aspiring teachers. In response, the Minnesota Board of Teaching adopted edTPA as the tool to satisfy the mandate. Minnesota now has a common measure of teacher candidates that asks each candidate to demonstrate the skills required to improve student learning.

### What's new for parents and their children?

Parents need to know about edTPA for several reasons. First, we believe that this process will enhance the experience that students have with teacher candidates because, more than ever, these aspiring teachers will focus on the practices that are linked to better student performance and learning. And by working with local colleges and universities to welcome teacher candidates, schools not only are developing future educators but exposing their staffs to new ideas, techniques and the creative energy these candidates bring with them.

Second, as part of this assessment, teacher candidates are required to submit a 15-20 minute video of classroom instruction as part of their evaluation. While the focus of the video is the teacher candidate, it will include some of the students being taught. No names will be included in the video and it will be kept confidential and used for evaluation purposes only. Finally, as your schools interview and hire these new teachers, administrators will have a better sense of their capabilities as a new teacher based on a common set of expectations and standards.

### What does edTPA mean for Minnesota teachers?

For the first time, all Minnesota teacher candidates will go through a clinical experience that culminates in a common, standards- and performance-based assessment. edTPA was developed by educators nationwide under the leadership of world-renowned educators at Stanford University.

As part of the assessment process, student work – without information that can identify them – must be collected, copied and handed in for review. Additionally, one lesson must be video recorded to demonstrate how candidates engage students in learning and then submitted for review along with commentaries by teacher candidates about their instruction.

Each candidate's evidence is evaluated and scored through a secure online system. The candidates will be assessed on how well they plan lessons; instruct and engage students; assess student learning; analyze their effectiveness at teaching, and teach academic language.

### The video recording requirement

Producing a video recording of classroom instruction is increasingly common as a tool for teacher assessment, training and professional development. The edTPA video will show both the teacher candidate and various students, though the primary focus is on the teacher candidate's instruction and not the students in the class. The recording will only be used to assess the student teacher's performance.

This process has been designed from the ground up to protect privacy and confidentiality. Teacher candidates must obtain appropriate permission for each child as well as adults who appear in any video. School administrators and cooperating teachers are expected to assist in obtaining the necessary permission forms or to place non-participating children off-camera.

The video submitted by each teacher candidate will not contain the candidate's name, the names of the cooperating teacher, school or district or the last names of the students. Each teacher candidate must agree in advance that the video cannot be shared or posted on any public site.

Finally, guidelines for the program are very precise for placement of all video recordings behind a firewall with encryption security once submitted. A teacher candidate may share a video with authorized faculty at his or her university on a secure site in order to obtain feedback before submission for final review. Once submitted for assessment, video recordings are secured and can be reviewed only by authorized Pearson users such as scorers and scorer supervisors or authorized Stanford University developers of edTPA.

As the submission guidelines make clear: "Candidate materials, including video recordings, will not be shown in any public venue nor made available in a non-secure way. Candidate materials, including video recordings, will not be used for marketing purposes or as exemplars for marketing purposes."

### **A partnership with families**

The requirement for performance-based assessment of teacher candidates is meant to improve the quality of education in Minnesota as we prepare future teachers. And while the process is new and being implemented statewide, local teacher candidates will continue working closely with licensed supervising teachers to deliver high-quality instruction aligned with the goals and curriculum in local schools. Your support of this process and teacher candidates is greatly appreciated. Please ask your child's teacher or principal about edTPA and how the new process will work in local schools.