



Information for Schools, Mentors, and Cooperating Teachers

Georgia prepares great teachers. The most important thing we can do to help students is to provide an effective teacher in every classroom. That's why Georgia has adopted a required performance assessment as part of new teacher preparation. The assessment Georgia has selected is edTPA, which ensures teachers beginning their careers are truly prepared to teach effectively. edTPA requires teacher candidates to demonstrate the skills needed to enter the classroom ready to help all their students learn.

The edTPA Requirement

Beginning in the Fall of 2015, all Georgia Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) will require teacher candidates to complete edTPA during their student teaching placement. GaTAPP candidates will complete edTPA during their second full semester in the classroom. A passing score on edTPA will be a certification requirement.

If your school supervises and supports teacher candidates during their clinical experiences or if there are GaTAPP candidates in your classrooms, you will see how edTPA creates a more rigorous and meaningful experience for aspiring teachers and students. It requires all teacher candidates to create a portfolio that will be uploaded to the edTPA platform, managed by Pearson, for external scoring by trained educators and those who prepare educators across the country. edTPA focuses on five areas that are critical to effective instruction, as shown in the table below:

Areas Covered	Candidate Classroom Materials (Artifacts) Reviewed
Planning	Lesson plans, instructional materials, student assignments, assessments, planning commentary
Instruction	Unedited video clips, instruction commentary
Assessment	Samples of student work, summary of student learning, assessment commentary
Analysis of Teaching	Planning commentary, instruction commentary and assessment commentary
Academic Language	Unedited video clips, student work samples, planning and assessment commentaries

Your collaboration as a school leader, mentor, or cooperating teacher will be critical to the overall experience and success of these candidates. Thank you for participating in this next step Georgia is taking to ensure that our early career teachers are thoroughly prepared to meet the diverse needs of all students!

What can you expect?

- As always, candidates will follow your school's curriculum and standards when planning lessons.
- Early in the teaching period, candidates will need detailed information about the context and background of the students in the class.
- Candidates will use data to determine the extent of student learning and develop lesson plans based on the needs of individual students.
- Candidates will submit extensive commentary about their work. To prepare, they may want to spend time discussing and reflecting on lessons with cooperating teachers and mentors.
- Candidates will submit unedited video clips of their lessons. While candidates will have technical support from their preparation programs, they will ask you about your school's specific policies and protocols for videotaping in the classroom.

What are some added benefits?

- The edTPA process will foster professional dialogue that will mutually benefit both veteran teachers and candidates.
- edTPA will foster enhanced partnerships between EPPs and local school systems.
- edTPA is aligned to state and national standards – including Common Core Georgia Performance Standards and Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES).
- New teachers who complete edTPA will be prepared to provide evidence of effective teaching and student learning as required for TKES.
- edTPA results will help schools identify new teachers' professional learning needs.
- Georgia's new teachers will emphasize instruction that is focused, coherent, and centered on student learning aligned with state goals.

For more information about edTPA, please visit <http://www.edtpa.com/>.

Video Recording Privacy & Confidentiality

Procedures for video recording have been designed to protect confidentiality and privacy. The video clips will be submitted for scoring purposes only. Candidates will obtain appropriate permission for all students and adults who appear in any recording. Candidates are expected to follow their cooperating school's policies and protocols for obtaining the necessary parental permission or to place non-participating students off-camera.

The video submitted by each candidate will not contain the name of the candidate, cooperating teacher, school, district, or the last names of the students. Each teacher candidate must agree in advance that the video cannot be shared, posted, or used for any other purpose.