



DATE: April 30, 2020

TO: Educator Preparation Providers
P-12 School Districts

FROM: Matt Arthur

SUBJECT: edTPA: Proposed Rules Changes

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the entire agency, thank you for your continued flexibility and hard work during this highly unusual situation with COVID-19. During this challenging time, we have had to find solutions to urgent issues, remain flexible, and explore innovations.

As a result of COVID-19, and as outlined in the guidance [here](#), we have provided several responsive measures. Among them are:

- providing one-year certification extensions for most fields,
- allowing for conditional program admission,
- extending assessment deadlines, and
- implementing *GACE PAA at Home* testing options.

Part of our responsive process involves examining all current policies and practices, seeking input from diverse and representative groups, including P-12 school districts and schools, educator preparation providers (EPPs), educators, and others. As a result, we recently removed one of the two ethics assessment requirements as noted [here](#).

One specific area of examination has been edTPA, the state-approved content pedagogy assessment requirement, which is completed during student teaching/internship and must be passed for certification.

edTPA became consequential for program completion and certification in Georgia in 2015, after a thoughtful three-year process of examination, pilots, and scaling up for successful implementation. Program providers, their P-12 partners, and state agencies worked closely together to learn, build capacity, and maximize outcomes for initial teacher candidates, EPPs, and employing districts. We are proud of that collaborative journey.

We recognize, however, that while we have gained much from edTPA, we, as an agency, need to be as responsive as possible to the expressed needs of schools related to staffing and capacity. Therefore, during a special called meeting of the Commission, rule amendments were initiated that, if adopted, will remove edTPA as a program completion and certification requirement effective July 1, 2020.

If the proposed rule amendments are adopted, the following guidance and timelines will apply.

- For academic year 2020-21 initial teaching program completers, edTPA is not a GaPSC program completion or certification assessment requirement.
- For Spring 2020 initial teaching program completers:
 - Candidates who have passed edTPA will retain that passing record on their Georgia certification.
 - Pending rule adoption, candidates who submitted but did not pass one or more tasks will not be required by GaPSC to re-submit.
 - Pending rule adoption, candidates who were not able to submit during Spring 2020, will not be required by GaPSC to submit.
- For initial teacher program completers prior to Spring 2020, the edTPA requirement will be waived, and the appropriate certification will be issued effective July 1, 2020.
- Individuals impacted by the removal of the edTPA requirement will be eligible for certification on July 1, 2020, the effective date of the rule.

We realize that many EPPs have embedded edTPA in their programs as a key assessment for program approval and may wish to continue using the assessment. Programs interested in maintaining a requirement for edTPA can contact Lori Kroeger of ES at lori.kroeger@pearson.com. Pending rule adoption, effective July 1, 2020, GaPSC will no longer provide edTPA support.

Please know that your work with edTPA and the collaborative spirit that contributed to its success here in Georgia are highly respected and greatly valued.

Please let us know how we can be of assistance.