Georgia has raised expectations for teachers by promising that ALL students will graduate ready for college, careers, and lifelong learning. 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 new requirement, a performance assessment that will be a required part of new teacher preparation. The assessment Georgia has selected is edTPA. This performance assessment complements existing entry-level assessments that gauge a candidate’s subject knowledge only. Improved certification standards in Georgia ensure that teacher candidates demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to improve the academic achievement of all students.

edTPA is a powerful tool that will help all Georgia Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) and school partners work together with beginning teachers to reach the ultimate goal of improving student learning.

Who uses edTPA?

Candidates in hundreds of educator preparation programs across the country currently use edTPA, and Georgia joins ten other U.S. states in requiring edTPA as part of the teacher preparation or licensure process. Many student teachers and GaTAPP candidates plan to submit official edTPA portfolios as part of Georgia’s full pilot in school year 2014-2015. Data from this pilot year will help EPPs examine their programs and will inform the passing score for Georgia candidates. The assessment will be required for all Georgia teacher candidates who student teach or complete a GaTAPP program in Fall 2015 or later. GaTAPP candidates will complete edTPA during the second full semester of their program.

What is edTPA?

edTPA is a performance-based effectiveness assessment for pre-service teachers that was designed by the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity (SCALE) with input from teachers and teacher educators. It is subject-specific and requires teacher candidates to submit evidence such as lesson plans, video clips, student work samples, and extensive commentary to demonstrate their ability to effectively teach their chosen subject. These artifacts are then submitted for scoring to Evaluation Systems group of Pearson (ES) and assessed by external evaluators who are P-12 teachers and those who prepare teacher candidates. edTPA’s detailed rubrics measure the entry-level teaching skills that are critical to effective instruction. edTPA draws from experience gained from a 25-year history developing performance-based assessments of teaching, including the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. edTPA is designed by educators to answer the question: “Is this new teacher ready for the job?”

How will edTPA help Georgia prepare great teachers?

**Strengthening Educator Preparation**
- edTPA provides meaningful data to support teacher education programs to ensure relevant, integrated curriculum centered on student learning.
- Receiving data on candidate performance will help program providers identify program strengths and areas for improvement.

**Bridging the Gap between Preparation and Performance**
- edTPA is aligned to state and national standards – including Common Core Georgia Performance Standards and Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES).
- Completing edTPA requires candidates to practice and analyze five critical areas of teaching: planning, instruction, assessment, analysis of teaching, and academic language.
- Completing the rigorous requirements of edTPA will develop teacher candidates’ confidence in their abilities and promote continuous reflection to improve their practice throughout their careers.

**Ensuring Teacher Readiness**
- To successfully complete edTPA, teacher candidates must demonstrate the skills needed to enter the classroom ready to help all students learn.
- edTPA complements the GACE content assessments that are already required. Candidates show that they know their subject matter by passing the GACE and demonstrate that they are able to teach it to students by successfully completing edTPA.
- Data from edTPA will improve Georgia’s ability to predict a candidate’s teaching effectiveness and impact on student learning.

**Supporting New Teachers**
- edTPA is designed to identify candidates’ strengths and areas for improvement.
- The data from this assessment will inform individual professional learning plans for professional growth.

**Where can I find out more?**
- For edTPA registration and information for candidates, visit [http://www.edtpa.com/](http://www.edtpa.com/)
- For faculty resources, visit [http://edtpa.aacte.org/](http://edtpa.aacte.org/)