



State of New Jersey

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September 13, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
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Nonpublic School Directors

FROM: Kristen Brown, Chief Talent Officer
Division of Talent and Performance

SUBJECT: New Performance Assessment for Teacher Certification

Each year, districts across the state hire approximately 6,500 teachers who are new to the profession. Collectively these teachers impact hundreds of thousands of New Jersey students. In 2015 the Department adopted a regulatory package aimed at strengthening teacher preparation, so that novice teachers are ready to serve students from day one. Key changes in this regulatory package include:

- Extending student teaching from one semester to a full-year by the 2018-19 school year;
- Strengthening alternate route preparation by 2017-18; and
- Requiring novice teachers to demonstrate their teaching ability by passing a Commissioner-approved performance assessment, starting in the 2017-18 school year.

The [Broadcast Memo released on June 3, 2015](#) and the [State Board PowerPoint presented on November 4, 2015](#) provide additional details on these changes.

In December of 2015, the edTPA was selected as the Commissioner-approved performance assessment. The **edTPA is an assessment completed during the clinical component of a teacher preparation program** (e.g., student teaching) and measures a teaching candidate's ability to plan and deliver a lesson, evaluate student learning, and reflect on his or her practice. Originating at Stanford University, edTPA has had more than 1,000 educators from 29 states and the District of Columbia and more than 430 colleges and universities participate in the design, development, piloting and field-testing of this assessment.

As adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education on August 3, 2016, the implementation timeline for edTPA is designed to enable a gradual progression to full implementation that provides candidates and preparation programs adequate time to prepare for the assessment.

The implementation timeline is as follows:

School Year	Requirement
2016-17	Optional pilot
2017-18	All candidates complete the assessment for certification but do not need to meet a specific cut score.
2018-19	Preliminary cut score set at one standard error of measurement below the national recommendation.
2019-20	Cut score determined by New Jersey standard-setting process.

To learn more about the assessment and for assistance in communicating with stakeholders about the recent teacher preparation changes, see the following related resources:

Overview of edTPA for all audiences:

- [Video explaining changes to student teaching](#)
- [Video on common concerns](#): regarding the changes to student teaching
- [Use of edTPA](#): an overview of the new performance assessment for teacher candidates

Information for school districts, teachers, and parents:

- [Information for school district leadership](#): an overview specifically designed for district leaders to explain how the edTPA impacts a school
- [Information for cooperating teachers](#): an overview specifically designed for cooperating teachers to explain how the edTPA impacts a classroom
- [Confidentiality and security](#): an overview of the policies and procedures related to the security of the edTPA submission

Sample video permission forms for school districts and teacher preparation programs:

- [Video permission form for student teaching](#): a sample video permission form a district may utilize for student teachers completing edTPA.
- [Video permission form for alternate-route](#): a sample video permission form a district may utilize for alternate-route teachers completing edTPA.

Additional resources for all audiences:

- [Alignment of edTPA handbooks and New Jersey certification areas](#): specific information for preparation programs and candidates outlining which subject-specific version of edTPA should be taken for each New Jersey certification area.
- [Frequently asked questions](#): regarding changes to teacher preparation and certification.
- For additional information see the [edTPA website](#) and the [Recruitment, Preparation, and Recognition website](#).

KB/RS

c: Members, State Board of Education
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