



To: Schools and Districts
From: Rowan University, College of Education
Re: edTPA Preservice Teacher Performance Assessment

Beginning in 2017, the NJDOE mandated that all Initial Teacher Preparation program candidates must complete edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessment) prior to recommendation for an NJDOE teacher certificate or license. The edTPA:

- is a performance assessment grounded in practices that focus on student learning and reflective practice
- is completed during the clinical experience and requires the candidate to submit a portfolio of artifacts related to teaching a series of connected lessons
- includes lesson plans, assessments, student work samples, analysis of student learning, reflective commentaries, and video clips of the candidate's teaching
- is based on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, at the preservice level

Currently, educator preparation programs in 41 states are requiring the use of edTPA. Cooperating teachers who have worked with candidates to complete the edTPA portfolio have reported that **the process does not interrupt classroom instruction or require additional work on their part.** They have indicated that it has benefited their own professional growth. In general, it has been well received by the educators familiar with and participating in the edTPA because it is rigorous and provides all of our teacher preparation programs with a common performance assessment to measure pedagogical skills.

We are asking for your continued commitment to provide quality clinical placements as we prepare our future teachers and for your cooperation in working with our programs and supervisors as we implement the edTPA.

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Here is how you can help:

- provide a clinical environment that will allow teacher candidates to complete the edTPA portfolio including the edTPA video component
- provide placements with effective mentor teachers who will model best practices and allow teacher candidates to complete requirements for edTPA
- know that teacher candidates will be using a parent permission form to inform parents about the edTPA assessment and to ensure their child can be included in the video clip of the student teacher's instruction
- know that the edTPA will not create any additional work for cooperating mentor teachers or school administrators and it is not meant to be intrusive or burdensome
- support ways to use as an induction tool, bridging the gap between pre-service preparation and in-service work
- learn about the edTPA and its requirements (<http://www.edtpa.aacte.org/>)

School districts in South Jersey are essential partners in our quest to be the best teacher preparation program in the state. We commend your commitment to working with our programs by providing high quality clinical placements in your schools.

Thank you,

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