

Minnesota edTPA: Teachers Who Oversee Teacher Candidates

Minnesota is a leader in a nationwide effort to better ensure that teachers beginning their careers are truly prepared to teach effectively. This initiative revolves around the edTPA™ (formerly the Teacher Performance Assessment) process, which requires teacher candidates to demonstrate the skills needed to enter the classroom ready to help all their students learn.

The Minnesota legislature has mandated the use of a performance-based assessment of aspiring teachers and the Minnesota Board of Teaching adopted edTPA as the tool to satisfy the mandate. All 31 Minnesota institutions of higher education now require teacher candidates to complete the edTPA process during their student-teaching placement. The process provides Minnesota a common measure of teacher candidates by asking each to demonstrate skills required to improve student learning.

If you are a K-12 teacher who supervises or supports teacher candidates in their clinical experiences, you will see how the edTPA creates a more rigorous and meaningful experience for aspiring teachers and students. Teacher candidates will develop lesson plans and deliver instruction consistent with your school's standards and curricula. For the first time, however, all teacher candidates will focus on five priority areas and producing similar material for their final review, as outlined here:

The edTPA Focuses on Areas Critical to Effective Instruction

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 and/or student work samples, planning and assessment commentaries

edTPA was developed under the leadership of the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity in partnership with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. More than 700 educators from 24 states and the District of Columbia and more than 160 institutions of higher education collaborated on edTPA to meet the need for a nationally available research- and standards-based assessment of candidate performance. The edTPA process draws on experience gained from the 25-year development of performance-based assessments of teaching, including the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and the Performance Assessment for California Teachers.

The video recording requirement

The video recording is a new requirement for teacher candidates that has been designed from the ground-up to protect privacy and confidentiality. The video clips will be submitted for scoring purposes only.

Teacher candidates are trained in advance to obtain appropriate permission for each child as well as adults who appear in any recording. Teacher candidates are expected to follow their cooperating school's policies and protocols for obtaining the necessary parental permission or to place non-participating children off-camera, but they can provide an edTPA-specific permission form if necessary.

The video submitted by each teacher candidate will not contain the candidate's name, the names of the cooperating teacher, school or 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.

What you can expect

Eventually more than 3,000 teacher candidates who complete Minnesota teacher preparation programs each year will go through the edTPA process.

As a supervising teacher, your role will be the same as always, though there may be some new twists. Teacher candidates may need more input early about the context and background of their students so that they can learn to plan instruction based on specific student needs.

You also may find that the candidates may want to spend more time reflecting on their instruction and lessons in preparation for the written commentaries they must submit. While candidates will have technical support from their preparation programs for their videos, they may ask you about your school's policies and protocols for securing parental permission for the recorded lessons.

Your collaboration as a mentor and facilitator will be critical to the overall experience and success of your student teacher. In return, the edTPA will foster professional dialogue that will enhance the mutual benefits both for veteran teachers and teacher candidates.