

Dear State Board of Education Members,

The undersigned organizations oppose the SBEC rule to adopt edTPA as a required teacher certification examination. Proponents of the rule claim it will increase the day-one readiness of Texas teachers. However, implementing edTPA as a licensure exam will not accomplish this goal because most Texas educators are alternatively certified and enter the classroom as teachers of record before taking all their certification exams.

We believe the best way to strengthen Texas educator preparation is by ensuring candidates have high-quality coursework, practice, and support *prior* to taking full responsibility for a classroom. edTPA is a Common Core-aligned portfolio assessment administered by Pearson K-12 Learning (rebranded as Savvas Learning Company) that includes video, lesson plan, and reflection artifacts. Although these components have merit, edTPA is ineffective in promoting growth when used as a licensure exam administered at the end of a teacher candidate's preparation, especially *after* the candidate has already been in a classroom working as a teacher of record. Therefore, **we respectfully request that the SBOE reject the SBEC plan to implement edTPA as a certification exam and instead direct SBEC to increase the quality of training requirements to support ALL teacher candidates before they become teachers of record.**

FACTS

- Most first-year Texas teachers ([69%](#)) are either interns (40%) or are uncertified (29%). Those on an intern certificate are allowed to teach before they have passed a pedagogy exam. Under SBEC's rule change, interns would complete edTPA well into their first year on the job, on top of their teacher workload, which detracts attention from students and does nothing to improve day-one readiness.
- The Texas Legislature has rejected Common Core and made its use in Texas illegal. TEC §28.002 (b-4) that specifies that a school district or open-enrollment charter school may not be required to offer *any aspect* of a common core state standards curriculum. Under edTPA, which is [aligned to Common Core](#) math and English standards, candidates will be judged using a nationalized assessment that is not directly aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- edTPA does not assess the [Texas Educators Code of Ethics](#) in TAC §247.1 and §247.2.
- At \$195 more than the current Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) exam, edTPA creates a financial barrier to entering the teaching profession.
- Several states that previously required edTPA for licensure have either eliminated or are in the process of eliminating it.
- Due to implicit bias, there is a significant gap in edTPA pass rates between Black and white candidates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We propose increasing training requirements to include completion of a performance assessment, such as edTPA, *before* certification candidates become teachers of record.

- Under TEC §21.044(a)(2), SBEC "shall propose rules establishing the **training requirements** a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship or enter an induction-year program."
- Texas preparation programs are already free to use edTPA as part of their program, and several states use edTPA for preparation rather than as a licensure exam.
- Certification candidates (and their future students) could benefit from integrating a performance assessment such as that required by edTPA into their required training. This would allow Texas to experience the benefits of performance assessments while avoiding the negative consequences of mandating edTPA as a high-stakes certification exam.

- Our recommendation opens the door to further strengthen educator preparation through initiatives such as improving the current Texas-based pedagogy exam.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to veto the pending edTPA rule. We look forward to working together on alternative rule-making that will reflect our shared vision for improving educator preparation, teacher effectiveness, and student success.



(Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators)



(Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education)



(Texas Music Educators Association)



(Central Texas Council of Teachers of Mathematics)



Texas Coordinators for Teacher Certification Testing



(Associate and Assistant Deans and Directors of Texas)



(Texas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)



EDICUT
(Education Deans of Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas)



ICUT
(Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas)

