

September 17, 2020

Dear Educator:

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) recognizes that quality teacher preparation is essential to meet the diverse needs of our students and the demands of the classroom. Performance-based educator assessments, such as the edTPA, allow teacher candidates to demonstrate and reflect on their practice in authentic ways.

During the 2020-2021 school year, select educator preparation programs (EPPs) across Texas will participate in a pilot of the edTPA. As a result, teacher candidates in your district may be completing the edTPA as an optional requirement for certification.

Based closely on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and associated processes, edTPA is a subject-specific performance assessment and support system, aligned to the Texas Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) standards and the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS). It evaluates a candidate's ability to plan and implement an authentic cycle of teaching aimed at subject-specific student TEKS-based learning goals using evidence derived from the candidates' teaching practice.

A candidate participating in the edTPA must plan, teach, and assess a 3-5 day connected learning segment. Artifacts from this learning segment, including student work samples and short video clips, are submitted as part of the candidate's portfolio.

The TEA recognizes that the submission of student work samples and video recording in the classroom may present concerns for parents, educators, and administrators. To address these concerns, TEA has drafted a sample letter and release form—attached here—to parents, guardians, and students aged 18 or older, regarding the edTPA student work submission and video recording process. Participating teacher candidates will need to obtain permissions (using either this form or similar) from their students to complete the requirements of the edTPA. These materials have also been provided to educator preparation programs. This will ensure that families and students are aware of and consent to being included in these work samples and/or videos.

Additionally, edTPA takes the following measures to further ensure student safety:

- TEA encourages districts and programs to include a provision in their student teaching agreements with candidates that describes the expectations for the candidates' use, transmission, and destruction of classroom recordings for assessment.
- The materials gathered are submitted securely to the electronic platforms maintained by the edTPA testing vendor, where only scorers may securely access them. The scorers are not able to download or otherwise save the information provided for scoring.
- The edTPA testing vendor may maintain edTPA materials for a short period of time (usually 12-24 months) in order to preserve a record for scores that are challenged and to continue to review the effectiveness and validity of the assessment. The materials will then be destroyed.
- Video recordings can be structured to accommodate students who do not have consent to be recorded.

Student materials are submitted without identifying information. Helpful general information on edTPA is also available online at <http://edtpa.aacte.org/faq#57>.

On the next page is a student video consent form that a participating teacher candidate will work with families to complete prior to video-taping.

We appreciate your commitment to ensuring that teachers are well-prepared to meet the needs of Texas students and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Morath". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Morath  
Commissioner of Education

## Informed Consent for edTPA Video Release Form

To: Parents & Guardians

Topic: Informed Consent Form – edTPA Teacher Certification Assessment

From: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Candidate  
\_\_\_\_\_ Educator Preparation Program  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cooperating/ Mentor Teacher  
\_\_\_\_\_ Building Principal  
\_\_\_\_\_ School

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a candidate in an educator preparation program that is implementing the edTPA, a performance assessment for prospective teachers.<sup>1</sup> Successful completion of this assessment is a requirement of my educator preparation program and for certification.

The edTPA documents a series of lessons I teach in your child’s classroom and includes short video recordings. While the videos will focus on my instruction, your child may appear on the recordings. The videotaped lesson will be used for me to reflect on my teaching practice as part of the edTPA. Additionally, I may submit samples of student work as evidence of my teaching practice, and that work may include some of your child’s work. These materials will be viewed only under secure, password-protected conditions, never posted on publicly accessible websites, and will never reveal identities of children, schools or districts.

The materials submitted as part of edTPA will not be made public in any way. Materials I submit may also be used by Pearson under secure conditions for edTPA program development and implementation, including scorer training. This form will be used to document permission for your child’s participation. If you choose not to give permission, your child will still participate in the classroom instruction as usual and will be seated out of camera range. Please visit <http://www.edtpa.com/Content/Docs/ConfidentialityAndSecurity.pdf> for more information about confidentiality and security.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the edTPA, see <http://edtpa.aacte.org/about-edtpa>

**Student Permission Slip**

**Please complete and return to your child's teacher before \_\_\_\_\_**

Student Name:

I am the parent/legal guardian of the child named above. I have read and understand the project description given in the letter provided with this form, and agree to the following:

*Please check the appropriate box below.*

I **DO** give permission to include my child's student work and/or image on video recordings as part of video(s) showing your classroom performance, to be used for the purpose of participating in edTPA

I understand that my child's name and any other identifiable information about my child will not appear on any of the submitted materials.

I **DO NOT** give permission to include my child's student work and/or image on video recordings as part of video(s) showing your classroom performance, to be used for the purpose of participating in edTPA.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date:

**Permission Slip for students more than 18 years of age. Please complete and return to your teacher before \_\_\_\_\_**

Student Name:

I am the student named above and am more than 18 years of age. I have read and understand the project description given in the letter provided with this form, and agree to the following:

*Please check the appropriate box below.*

I **DO** give permission to include my student work and/or image on video recordings as part of video(s) showing your classroom performance, to be used for the purpose of participating in edTPA

I understand that my name and any other identifiable information will not appear on any of the submitted materials.

I **DO NOT** give permission to include my work and/or image on video recordings as part of video(s) showing your classroom performance to be used for the purpose of participating in edTPA.

Signature:

Date:

Date of Birth: