



Opposition to SBEC Agenda Item 18: Educator Assessment and edTPA

April 29, 2022

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** offers the following input to the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) regarding our opposition to Item 18 of the April 2022 agenda. If adopted, the rule proposal in Item 18 would phase out the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) exam by mandating the use of edTPA for standard certification.

ATPE urges the board to vote NO on this item for the following reasons:

- **HIGHER COST WILL WORSEN TEACHER SHORTAGES:** EdTPA will cost teacher certification candidates an extra \$195 over the cost of the PPR, which is a major financial barrier at a time when we already have a teacher shortage. Peer-reviewed research also suggests factors such as the time and technology required to complete edTPA negatively affect the number and diversity of candidates. Other states have repealed edTPA due to this effect. ATPE appreciates efforts made by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to mitigate costs and looks forward to more detail.
- **INSUFFICIENT PILOT DATA:** The candidate score data from the edTPA pilot is not connected to student outcomes, principal evaluations, or first-year teacher surveys. Furthermore, peer-reviewed research (Gitomer et al., 2019) details concerns with the procedures and statistics used to make claims about edTPA's reliability in scoring candidates.
- **DAY-ONE READINESS:** According to TEA data, 70% of newly certified Texas teachers in 2020-21 were from out of state or went through alternative or post-baccalaureate certification programs. These teachers typically enter the classroom *before* earning standard certification, making the "day-one readiness" rationale for edTPA irrelevant. Requiring the desired practice elements *throughout* preparation would benefit these educators more by ensuring meaningful feedback as they navigate their first years in the classroom.
- **ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL:** Adopting edTPA as a certification exam would inhibit flexibility and innovation for Texas EPPs. In 2013, Texas lawmakers banned the use of Common Core or any other national curriculum or test to ensure Texans maintained control over K-12 education standards. Similarly, adopting edTPA would cause every EPP to conform to a vendor-dictated curriculum based on a nationally developed assessment.
- **MISALIGNMENT TO STANDARDS:** Using edTPA could put students at risk as it is not aligned to Standard 4 of the T-TESS rubric, which covers Professional Responsibilities, including the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics in 19 TAC 247.2 and other responsibilities such as contacting parents.

In February, SBEC Chair Dr. Kelly explicitly asked TEA to develop and fund an alternative to edTPA that could run along the same timeline as the edTPA rollout. To avoid mandating only one option (edTPA), **ATPE asks that SBEC members vote NO on Item 18.** Instead, ATPE recommends that SBEC work with stakeholders to discuss mandatory, curriculum-based performance assessments (which could be edTPA or alternatives) for program completion. Further, SBEC should examine stakeholder feedback about modifying and improving the PPR, either through an alternative assessment or other means, to ensure future Texas educators are learning the pedagogy skills needed to be successful, as well as the Texas' standards for ethics and professional responsibility.

ATPE appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback and invites board members and TEA staff to contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or government@atpe.org for additional information.

The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) has been a strong voice for Texas educators since 1980. It is the leading educators' association in Texas with approximately 90,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, future, retired, and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for the more than 5 million public schoolchildren of Texas.