

Date: March 10, 2014

To: Wisconsin School District Administrators and Principals
Wisconsin School Partners

From: Tony Evers, PhD, State Superintendent

Re: edTPA Pre-service Teacher Performance Assessment

In 2011, I convened the Continuous Review Process work group to develop a program approval process for our educator preparation programs that would occur annually and be based on candidate performance outcomes. To better measure readiness to teach and pedagogical skills, the work group recommended the adoption of a national pre-service teacher performance assessment called edTPA.

In November 2012, **I approved the use of edTPA as a required element during student teaching and for Wisconsin licensure.** We are scaling up for the **mandatory implementation of the edTPA, which will occur September 2015.** I ask for your continued commitment to provide quality student teaching placements as we prepare our future teachers, to learn about the edTPA, and to partner with our educator preparation programs as we implement the edTPA.

Here is how you can help. Partner with educator [preparation programs in your area](#) to:

- [learn about the edTPA](#) and its requirements
- provide a student teaching environment that will allow [student teachers to complete the edTPA portfolio](#) including the edTPA video component
- know that student teachers 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 teachers or school administrators and it is not meant to be intrusive or burdensome

Cooperating teachers who have already worked with candidates to complete the edTPA portfolio have reported that **the process does not interrupt continued 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.

The edTPA is rigorous, and it is aligned with our educator effectiveness initiative. With the addition of the edTPA, all of our educator preparation programs will have common performance assessments; the current standardized content tests to measure content knowledge and the edTPA to measure pedagogical skills. Both are critical components of teacher readiness.

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Here are the quick facts about edTPA. The edTPA:

- is a performance assessment grounded in practices that focus on student learning
- is completed during student teaching 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 candidate's teaching
- is based on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, at the pre-service level
- aligns with the Wisconsin educator effectiveness system
- is already in use for some candidates as the educator preparation programs scale –up

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is committed to ensuring all classrooms in Wisconsin have effective educators now and in the future. A part of that commitment is to make certain that all initial license applicants have completed a high performing educator preparation program and are ready to teach before they receive a license.

School districts are essential partners in the preparation process of educators. I commend your commitment to working with our Wisconsin educator preparation programs by providing student teaching placements in your schools to recruit and prepare effective future educators. If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact our Wisconsin educator preparation programs or Tammy Huth, Director of Teacher Education, Professional Development and Licensing, at 608-266-0986 or at tammy.huth@dpi.wi.gov.

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