



Illinois State Board of Education

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Gery J. Chico
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Illinois Association of EC Teacher Educator
Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood, President
Campus Box 1122
SIUE
Edwardsville, IL 62026

Dear Dr. Sherwood,

On behalf of Dr. Koch and in response to your letter received on June 7, 2013, I would like to thank you for your interest you have expressed in regards to the implementation of the edTPA and would entertain the opportunity to clarify the concerns which have been brought forth.

First, the edTPA, which is a multiple-measure assessment system aligned to state and national standards, becomes consequential on September 1, 2015. It constitutes the newest high-stakes assessment required for licensure in Illinois. However, it is not the only assessment intended to be used. The Test of Academic Proficiency requirement (TAP), previously known as the Basic Skills, content area exam, and Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) are required, as well, and thus considered high stakes.

Second, several purposes of the edTPA include the fact that this is indeed a state licensure exam, and must therefore be passed as a condition for a candidate to be recommended for licensure. However, although a candidate may pass the edTPA, TAP, content area exam, and APT, the Institution of Higher Education may make the decision to not recommend the candidate for licensure due to a variety of reasons, which could consist of a disregard for parents, being chronically late, and other dispositional issues deemed important by the institution.

Furthermore, the integration of the edTPA with other teacher preparation assessments provides guidance and support for program improvement. It constitutes a summative capstone assessment which evaluates a candidate's readiness to teach based on the instruction they have received in the teacher preparation program.

Through the evidence-based feedback in the scoring component, as well as through opportunities for self-reflection provided during the edTPA process, candidates will be better equipped to meet the challenges of classroom instruction. As you may already be aware, the edTPA is aligned to the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and the Danielson Framework for Teaching. Therefore, it provides connections and alignment to the specific skills required for

an effective teacher and most often assessed within the classroom setting for teachers during their evaluation observations.

If you would like to further the conversation regarding the implementation of edTPA, we would be glad to set up a call for such. Please let us know if that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicki Phillips", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vicki Phillips
Division Administrator
Preparation and Evaluation Division
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217.782.2948

cc: Christopher A. Koch
Leigh Ann Smith