



Opposition to SBEC Agenda Item 19: Educator Assessment and EdTPA

Feb. 11, 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 19 of the February 2022 agenda. If approved, the rule proposal in Item 19 would phase out the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) exam by mandating EdTPA for standard certification.

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

- **INCREASED COST WILL WORSEN TEACHER SHORTAGES:** EdTPA will charge teacher certification candidates an extra \$195 over the existing cost of the PPR, which is a major financial barrier at a time when we already have a shortage of current and prospective teachers. Peer-reviewed research also suggests other factors such as the time commitment and technology required to complete EdTPA negatively affect the number and diversity of candidates. In fact, other states that had adopted EdTPA have since repealed its use due to negative impacts.
- **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. Teachers who participated in the Texas pilot also testify that missing certain EdTPA rubric elements (e.g., no special populations in one's class) can unfairly impact a candidate's score.
- **DAY-ONE READINESS:** According to Texas Education Agency (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* completing standard certification, making the "day-one readiness" rationale for EdTPA irrelevant. Bolstering educator preparation program (EPP) curricula by requiring a performance assessment *during* preparation would benefit these educators more by ensuring meaningful feedback *before* standard certification.
- **ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL:** Approving the EdTPA proposal in Item 19 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 the same vendor-controlled curriculum.

In December, SBEC members expressed interest in discussing alternatives to EdTPA. To avoid mandating only one option (EdTPA), **ATPE asks that SBEC members vote NO on Item 19.** Instead, ATPE recommends that SBEC work to help EPPs embed growth opportunities by setting standards for mandatory performance assessments (which could be EdTPA or another choice) for program completion and examine stakeholder feedback about modifying the PPR to improve teacher quality and student achievement.

ATPE appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback during this process and invites board members and TEA staff to contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or government@atpe.org for any 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 100,000 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.