

TEACHING PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT IN CALIFORNIA

Information for Policy Makers



What is the Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA)?

California's students deserve well-prepared and effective teachers. New legislation effective July 1, 2008 (SB 1209, Chap. 517, Stats. 2006) requires all elementary and secondary teacher candidates to pass an assessment of their teaching performance with K-12 students. A candidate who passes this assessment has shown that he or she is prepared to help students succeed.

What Does the TPA Measure?

Teacher candidates must show that they have the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a beginning teacher in California public schools, as described in California's thirteen Teaching Performance Expectations (TPEs) for beginning teachers. The TPEs can be found at <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/TPA-files/TPE-short-form.pdf>

How does the TPA Measure California's Teaching Performance Expectations?

The TPA requires candidates to demonstrate knowledge about the students in the class, the students' academic achievement levels, and their specific learning needs. The teacher candidate uses this information to:

- plan lessons based on California standards and adapt lessons for English learners and other students with identified learning challenges
- teach the standards-based lessons to the K-12 students in public school classrooms
- plan and administer student assessments based on the lessons
- reflect on the effectiveness of their own instruction
- examine student work and assessment results as evidence of the effectiveness of their instruction

Candidates then use all of this information for the next planning and instructional cycle in order to help students succeed.

"The TPAs will make me a better teacher because I really reflected on what I was doing. Watching myself teach on the video, I could see everything I needed to change about how I approached the class. I learned A LOT!"
High School Teacher



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How is the TPA Scored?

The TPA is scored from a low of 1 to a high of 4. The scoring rubric describes what the candidate's performance would look like at each score level.

TPA Assessors

Trained and calibrated assessors who score candidate performance on each of the TPA tasks are typically education professionals such as university faculty, K-12 teachers, administrators, supervisors, mentors, and support providers, as well as retired faculty, teachers, and others. Each teacher preparation program sponsor identifies its own assessors and ensures that the assessors have the necessary background and training to assess candidate performance accurately and fairly.

How Do Teacher Candidates Learn About the TPA?

The teaching performance assessment takes place within each teacher preparation program. The program informs candidates about the TPA requirement, the tasks of the TPA, and the Teaching Performance Expectations. Candidates have opportunities to practice the TPA before submitting responses for scoring, and they receive feedback about their performance. Candidates can retake the TPA, if necessary.

How Are TPA Results Used?

- As part of the recommendation of a candidate for a credential
- As an indication of the effectiveness of the teacher preparation program
- By the candidate to evaluate his or her progress and needs
- As evidence of a candidate's development for use in a beginning teacher induction program



"The TPA set a good benchmark for future reflection on teaching practice."
Middle School Teacher

Other Important Information for Policy

Makers About the TPA

As part of the assessment, candidates submit for scoring anonymous samples of student work, student tests or other assessments, and a video of their teaching performance in a K-12 classroom.

Parent permission for these materials and for the video is required in accordance with local school district policies.

These types of evidence are very important so the assessors can judge if the teacher candidate is well-prepared and effective with K-12 students. Policy makers, parents, educators and the community can be assured that through the teaching performance assessment process only qualified candidates are recommended for a California teaching credential.



For More Information

Information about the TPA is available on the Web at <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/TPA.html>.

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