



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: 3/11/2013

Number: 13-02

Subject: TPA – Unaided Candidate Work Submitted for Scoring

## **Summary**

This notice is to remind all approved teacher preparation program sponsors that candidate responses on the TPA that are submitted for scoring should represent the work of that candidate without benefit of input and/or feedback from any other person associated with the teacher preparation program and/or with the candidate (including but not limited to course instructors, TPA assessors, the TPA Coordinator, master/mentor/cooperating teachers, supervisors, fellow students, family members, and similar individuals).

## **Background**

Candidates learn and experience the topics of the TPA throughout their coursework and field experiences. Within the coursework assignments and activities, candidates receive feedback from instructors and fellow candidates. Within the field experience component of the program, candidates receive feedback from master teachers/support providers and supervisors. For example, a methodology class could include assignments related to lesson design, and an educational psychology class could include assignments related to student assessment. The instructor provides feedback to candidates relative to the TPEs addressed within the coursework and assignments. During field experiences, candidates are trying out what they have learned and they receive feedback on their performance from the supervisor and the master teacher. These activities and experiences provide opportunities for candidates to “practice the activities of the TPA” and to synthesize their learning relative to the TPEs. Candidate responses to the actual TPA, however, represent a separate and distinct assessment activity that candidates complete on their own and for which they should not receive any of these types of input and/or feedback prior to submission for scoring.

Some programs have connected candidate TPA responses to a course grade. In this case, care must be taken to ensure that the task response scored for the TPA is submitted and scored without benefit of prior feedback from the course instructor.

**References**

*Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*, the American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, National Council on Measurement in Education (1999)

**Contact Information**

The Professional Services Division provides topic-specific dedicated email addresses at: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PSD-contact.html>.