

TEACHING PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT IN CALIFORNIA

Information for Parents

What is the Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA)?

California's students deserve well-prepared and effective teachers. New legislation, effective July 1, 2008, 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.

Important Information for Parents About the TPA

Candidates need to provide assessors with evidence that they are effective in teaching K-12 students. As part of this evidence, candidates must 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. Parents may be asked for permission to use their child's work sample, tests or other assessments, and/or for their child to be in the classroom video. 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. Parents can be assured that through the teaching performance assessment process only qualified candidates are recommended for a California teaching credential.

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 part of the assessment, teacher candidates explain what they know about the students in the class, their academic achievement levels, and their learning needs. Teacher candidates then show how well they can use this information to help students succeed by:

"While completing the TPA, I was challenged by the rigor of the tasks but after all tasks were completed, I felt confident and proud of my accomplishment. This was an authentic and meaningful assessment."
Elementary School Teacher



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- planning and adapting lessons based on California standards
- teaching the standards-based lessons to the K-12 students
- planning and giving student assessments or tests based on the lessons
- reflecting on the effectiveness of their own instruction by examining student work and assessment results and using this information to help students achieve the standards

Who Scores the Candidate Responses?

Teacher candidate responses are scored by qualified, trained assessors. The assessors 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. All assessors receive special training for this responsibility.

How Do Teacher Candidates Learn About the TPA?

California’s teaching performance assessment takes place within each teacher preparation program. The program informs candidates about the TPA requirement, the tasks of the TPA, and California’s *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?

TPA results let us know if a candidate is effective in teaching K-12 students, and also if the teacher preparation program has been effective in preparing the candidate to be successful in the classroom. TPA results are also used to help teachers continue to improve their teaching practice.



For More Information

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

California Teaching Performance Assessment
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“The TPA set a good benchmark for future reflection on teaching practice.”
Middle School Teacher

