Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) and COVID-19
Guidelines & Frequently Asked Questions
April 8, 2020

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the impact of school and university closures on candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs. We are particularly concerned about candidates' ability to complete clinical practice and performance assessment requirements during the 2019-20 academic year.

Passage of any Commission-approved teaching performance assessment during teacher preparation is a statutory requirement for licensure in California. As such, the Commission is not able to waive this requirement for teacher candidates impacted by COVID-19 related school closures. Moreover, as a professional standards board and licensing agency, the Commission is responsible for ensuring candidates have demonstrated competence prior to earning a license. Consistent with practice in other professions, maintaining the standards for the profession remains a high priority for the Commission.

In response to the current public health crisis related to COVID-19, it is the Commission's intent to work with educator preparation programs to do whatever is legally, practically, and programmatically feasible to help candidates who are on target to complete preparation and earn a credential this year to do so. For candidates who are unable to meet all requirements during this academic year due to COVID-19, the Commission's Variable Term Waiver (VTW) would allow them to begin teaching this fall and complete clinical practice and/or their teaching performance assessment during their first year of teaching.

The Commission is working with the administration, legislature, stakeholders, districts, and programs to understand and minimize, to the extent possible, the impacts for candidates, districts and educator preparation programs.

This document provides guidance to sponsors of educator preparation programs (EPPs) regarding the teaching performance assessment requirement. The submission and scoring information in this document applies to both CalTPA and edTPA.

For up-to-date information, please consult the Commission's dedicated [COVID-19 webpage](#) and the [Clinical Practice](#) guidance document. The Commission also provides updates to the field via the weekly [PSD News](#) emails. For information on testing center closures and other test status questions, please consult the [California Educator Credentialing Assessment Website](#).

Guidelines for the 2019-20 Cohort of Teacher Candidates to Complete Teacher Certification

For most EPPs operating under a developmental sequence of learning to teach (as designated in the [Commission's standards](#)), a large portion of clinical practice occurs at the end of the program, during the spring. As of now all of the schools in the state have closed through at least mid-April, though there are some indications that schools may not re-open until fall 2020. If schools do not reopen this spring or summer, it may be difficult for many candidates to complete their clinical practice as planned and/or develop and submit their TPA.

While the Commission recognizes that each candidate situation is unique, broadly speaking, there seems to be two common scenarios facing this cohort of student teachers and interns:

Scenario 1: Candidates are able to finish coursework, clinical practice and any TPA by the end of the spring or summer 2020 term.

Given the current circumstance of school closures, this may be possible with modifications. Course embedded demonstrations of the teaching performance expectations (TPEs) are under the purview of preparation programs, and EPPs will have flexibility to modify and adapt as they see fit. The guiding principle for making modifications should be whether candidates can demonstrate to their preparation programs that they have developed key TPE skills and knowledge to draw on when they begin teaching in the fall. "Instructional skill" may be demonstrated via:

- Proximal forms such as lesson or unit design rather than the actual teaching of that lesson/unit;
- Analyses of a set of student work that may not be from a candidate's classroom; and/or
- Reflections on prior teaching related to new learning, etc.

Programs will be asked to provide a summary (no more than five (5) pages) of how they have modified coursework and program-level assessments due to COVID-19. There is no need for programs to update their Course Matrix to identify how these modifications were made during this time period.

With regard to the TPA in this scenario, if candidates are able to assemble sufficient evidence to develop their TPA, **as jointly determined by the program and the candidate**, then the EPP should support and facilitate their completion of this program requirement during the spring or summer term. More guidance on the completion of any TPA is provided below. With regard to the clinical practice in this scenario, see previously published guidelines.

Scenario 2: Candidates are able to finish coursework, but UNABLE to complete clinical practice and/or any TPA by the end of the spring or summer 2020 term.

The Commission understands that this could likely be the case for many candidates this year. Programs with candidates in this situation can modify coursework as outlined in Scenario 1. In addition, the program may request in writing to the Commission that their candidate be eligible for a Variable Term Waiver based on the emergency health and safety restrictions arising from COVID-19. The process for requesting a VTW will be available soon on the Commission's COVID-19 webpage.

Commission staff are currently in consultation with districts, stakeholders, and EPPs to determine optimal processes for supporting candidates as they complete the VTW requirements. We will send additional guidance when it is available.

Specific FAQs Regarding the Teaching Performance Assessment Requirement:

1Q.   Will candidates still be required to complete a TPA?

1A.   Yes. Completion of any TPA is required by law (Education Code Section 44259) for all Multiple Subject and Single Subject teacher candidates before they can be recommended for a preliminary credential. The Commission has approved three TPA models that meet this statutory requirement. Information on the CalTPA can be found on the California Educator Credentialing Assessment website. Information on the edTPA can be found at the edTPA website. Information on the FAST model can be on the FAST website. Candidates who cannot complete any TPA during this academic year due to lack of access to an appropriate clinical experience may be granted a Variable Term Waiver by the Commission upon request of their preparation program as described below.

2Q.   What is a program's responsibility to candidates who are completing their TPA while employed on a Variable Term Waiver?

2A.   Candidates must be affiliated with a Commission-approved program to be eligible to complete an approved TPA. If a candidate is issued a VTW by the Commission and develops their TPA during this time the program is expected to support the candidate consistent with the Preliminary Multiple and Single Subject Program Standard 5. Program level support may be provided through distance learning as candidates may not be employed near the preliminary teacher preparation program. There may be an

appropriate role for on-site support to the candidate provided by the mentor/coach they are assigned to during induction. More detail about supporting a candidate on a VTW while they complete a TPA will be forthcoming.

3Q.   Due to school closures, can candidates change teaching venues, or complete their TPA requirements in an online setting?

3A.   Yes. Determinations regarding the appropriate site for a candidate's clinical practice must be made by their program, and should take into consideration school closures, student accessibility, and cycle requirements. A candidate must continue to receive appropriate support from their program for their clinical practice.

4Q.   What are the Commission's expectations for online teaching used to complete TPA requirements?

4A.   All TPA submissions – CalTPA, edTPA and FAST - must meet the requirements specified in the respective TPA assessment guides. Programs must work with candidates to determine whether an online setting is suitable for completing their assessment. A key issue will be whether the candidate can obtain sufficient video evidence to support development of their TPA. A second key issue will be that the candidate can be adequately supported and supervised by the program as they develop their TPA.

5Q.   Due to disruptions, will additional dates for submission of materials be added?

5A.   Commission staff are working closely with Evaluation Systems group of Pearson to add additional submission deadlines for all TPA candidates. If necessary, additional dates may be added later this year. All dates for the CalTPA will be posted on the [California Educator Credentialing Assessment website](#) as they are identified. All dates for the edTPA will be posted on the [edTPA website.](#) For FAST information visit the [FAST website](#).

6Q.   Will there be significant delays in scoring TPA assessments?

6A.   At this time, candidates can expect a three-week processing time for score reports for CalTPA and edTPA. All published spring submission dates are available to candidates. All current and additional dates for the CalTPA will be available on the [California Educator Credentialing Assessment website](#) as they are identified. All current and additional dates for the edTPA will be available on the [edTPA website.](#) For FAST information visit the [FAST website](#).

7Q.   How long do candidates have to complete their TPA submissions?

7A.   Candidates currently have one year for CalTPA and 18 months for edTPA from the date of registration to submit their completed responses for the TPA. In support of candidates that need for more time to submit due COVID-19, on April 6, 2020 Evaluation Systems group of Pearson will set all open (e.g. a candidate that is

currently registered by not yet completed) TPA registrations to expire on December 5, 2021. Information as it becomes available will be posted for the CalTPA on the [California Educator Credentialing Assessment website;](#) for the edTPA on the [edTPA website.](#) For FAST information visit the [FAST website](#).

8Q.   Can candidates withdraw if they believe they will be unable to complete their response before the deadline?

8A.   Yes. Candidates who have registered for any TPA but have not yet submitted may withdraw their registration and receive a full refund if the request is submitted within one year of the candidate's registration date. Information on withdrawal and re-registration can be found for the CalTPA on the [California Educator Credentialing Assessment website;](#) for the edTPA on the [edTPA website.](#) For FAST information visit the [FAST website](#).

9Q.   (NEW) Do TPA permission slips collected for traditional classroom settings translate to online virtual learning environments?

9A.   Each school district and/or school administrator determines what is acceptable under their student media waiver permission forms. Candidates should ask their district or school administrator if the permission form covers instruction conducted through virtual settings or only covers instruction in a traditional, face-to-face settings.

10Q.   (NEW) For teacher candidates who are not employed in a teaching position in the fall, how might they complete a TPA?

10A.   Candidates who are not employed this fall will continue to stay enrolled in their teacher preparation programs and complete their TPA in student teaching placements under supervision of the program.

11Q.   (NEW) Do candidates need to be enrolled in a program to complete their TPA?

11A.   In order for candidates to receive support, they need to be affiliated with their teacher preparation programs. It is up to each program to determine how support and guidance will be provided to the candidate and if additional cost is warranted.

12Q.   (NEW) If candidates are registered now for a TPA, but choose to complete in the fall, will they be using this year's materials, or will they need to use the new, updated materials?

12A.   If teacher candidates are not able to complete a CalTPA this spring then they will use the materials released in July of 2020 for their fall/winter completion of the TPA. Edits to the materials are minor and considered improvements in clarity of the directions for candidates.

For More Information

The Commission is committed to supporting institutions, programs, and candidates. Staff will continue to be responsive to programs and facilitate ways to enable all candidates to complete their TPAs and be recommended for their preliminary credential. Please continue to monitor the Commission's COVID-19 website for updates and direct specific questions to appropriate staff.

CalTPA Questions? Email CalTPA@ctc.ca.gov
edTPA Questions? Email stanfordscale@stanford.edu