
MEMORANDUM

To: Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board
From: Erin Doan, Director of Educator Preparation and Pathways
Date: September 18, 2026
Subject: Board-Adopted Assessment Feedback (Report)

Background

The edTPA was first established as a state-approved measure of teacher preparation program effectiveness in Fall 2014 by the Minnesota Board of Teaching (the predecessor to PELSB). At this time, it was integrated into program approval standards to provide a standard tool for evaluating a candidate's readiness to teach.

In July 2024 PELSB scaled back the requirement, only mandating that teacher preparation providers require Tasks 1 and 3 for official scoring, making Task 2 optional at the discretion of individual programs.

In fall 2024, the Board began granting discretionary variances allowing many Minnesota teacher preparation providers to substitute the edTPA with the Candidate Preservice Assessment of Student Teaching (CPAST) pilot. While CPAST data is scheduled for collection through spring of 2027, a decision on PELSB's requirement for edTPA and/or CPAST as a teacher performance measure will need to be made prior to the end of the 2026 calendar year to ensure providers have enough time to transition operations and candidate expectations.

The edTPA is undergoing a national redesign, transitioning to edTPA Essentials beginning in August 2026. This redesign was developed by Pearson in response to evolving needs across teacher candidate experiences, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs), and state licensing agencies. The new performance assessment:

- Streamlines requirements to reduce complexity and redundancy while focusing on core teaching evidence.
- Provides flexible integration across diverse coursework and clinical placement contexts.
- Better aligns with key policy priorities, including literacy instruction, inclusive practices, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), and Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

Request

The board will be joined by Pearson's Partnership Management Lead, Madison Cooper, who will provide an informational overview of the transition from the existing edTPA to edTPA Essentials. Pearson representatives will present key structural changes to the performance assessment, validity measures, candidate/EPP support resources, and the multi-year implementation timeline.

Key components of the structural redesign include:

- Transitioning from 3 tasks to 2 tasks
(Task 1: Instructional Decision Making & Implementation and Task 2: Assessment & Analysis of Student Learning).
- Consolidated assessment fields from 32 handbooks down to 5 handbooks, utilizing 12 streamlined rubrics (reduced from 15).
- A new modular design with a rich-text submission platform and reduced video upload requirements.

The Implementation Timeline is as follows:

- August 2026: edTPA Essentials operational use begins.
- Spring 2027: National standard setting.
- August 2027: Last registration window for current edTPA initial submissions.
- December 2027: Final date for current edTPA initial submissions.

This means that all MN providers using edTPA as a means of complying with PELSB rule, must make the switch to edTPA Essentials by the end of calendar year 2027.

Options

This is a report. No action is needed.