
Professional Assessments Policy 5.105

The Background:

To become fully licensed to teach in Tennessee, educators must demonstrate both content and pedagogical competencies. Current policy requires the use of the Praxis assessment series for assessments of core knowledge and content knowledge. This item recommends the adoption of a new required assessment of pedagogical and pedagogical content knowledge—the edTPA—for all initial licensure candidates by January 2019.

The edTPA is a nationally-available, subject-specific performance assessment that focuses on student learning and principles from research and theory. The edTPA is designed to be educative for candidates, preparation programs and policy makers. Since 2012, Tennessee has allowed the use of edTPA in lieu of Praxis II: Principals of Learning and Teaching. Eight Educator Preparation Providers have implemented the edTPA including all six TBR Universities, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Vanderbilt University.

This item proposes the following recommendation related to performance assessment:

- Requires all candidates for licensure to submit qualifying scores on the edTPA. In very limited cases, when an appropriate edTPA is not available, the candidate must submit a qualifying score on the relevant Principles of Learning and Teaching assessment.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.