COVID-19 Performance Assessment Rule Modification:
Guidance and Next Steps for Candidates for Teacher Certification

New Jersey Department of Education

Division of Academics and Performance

Office of Recruitment, Preparation, and Induction

Office of Educator Certification

Fall 2020

Performance Assessment Requirement

- Candidates seeking a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) must take and pass a Commissioner-approved performance assessment to be issued a CEAS.[1]

- Candidates holding a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) or CE-Reciprocity (CE-R) and teaching provisionally must take and pass a Commissioner-approved performance assessment as a program completion requirement and for standard certification.[2]

- New Jersey's Commissioner-approved performance assessment is the edTPA.

- The edTPA is a digital portfolio that requires candidates to plan and teach lessons and assess student progress.

[1] *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9A-4.5(a)2, *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-8.2(a)6
[2] *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9A-5.5(a)2, *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-8.7(a)4

Overview

- Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency[1], the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is providing flexibilities for the performance assessment (edTPA) requirement through state-approved educator preparation providers.

- These flexibilities may impact:
  - Candidates seeking a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS);
  - Certificate of Eligibility (CE) holders teaching provisionally and seeking standard certification; and
  - Certificate of Eligibility through Reciprocity (CE-R) holders teaching provisionally and seeking standard certification.

- This presentation provides information about flexibilities pertaining to the performance assessment requirement and related next steps for eligible candidates.

[1] See New Jersey Executive Order 103.

Performance Assessment COVID-19 Modifications for 2020-2021

- The NJDOE is allowing state-approved educator preparation providers to recommend program graduates for the appropriate certification who have either:
    - Completed edTPA for national scoring; or
    - Demonstrated readiness to teach through a state-approved alternative measure.
- Candidates **who can** complete edTPA in the usual manner with national scoring shall be required to do so.
- During the 2020-2021 school year, the performance assessment requirement can be met through alternative measures for eligible:
    - Candidates applying for CEAS; and
    - CE and CE-R holders applying for a Standard Certificate.
- State-approved educator preparation providers will verify to the NJDOE that program graduates have met the performance assessment requirement through a NJDOE-approved alternative measure, met all other requirements for certification, and are prepared to teach.

Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS)

Requirement: Candidates seeking a CEAS must take and pass edTPA to be issued a CEAS.[1]

Rule Modification: The NJDOE is allowing approved educator preparation programs to recommend program graduates for the appropriate certification who have either:

- Completed edTPA through national scoring; or
- Demonstrated readiness to teach through an approved alternative measure.

May Apply to: CEAS candidates who were enrolled in the program as of September 1, 2020 **and** complete the clinical practice requirement during a semester that began during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Eligibility will be determined by educator preparation providers.

Next Steps: Approved educator preparation programs will determine on a case-by-case basis that candidates are eligible for an alternative measure. Eligible candidates will work with preparation programs to meet the requirement through the NJDOE-approved alternative measure. CEAS preparation programs will recommend candidates for certification.

[1] *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9A-4.5(a)2; *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-8.2(a)6

CE Candidates Seeking Standard Certificate

Requirement: Candidates holding a CE and teaching provisionally must take and pass edTPA as a program completion and standard certification requirement.[1]

Rule Modification: The NJDOE is allowing approved educator preparation programs to recommend program graduates for the appropriate certification who have either:

- Completed edTPA for national scoring; or
- Demonstrated readiness to teach through an approved alternative measure.

May Apply to: CE provisional teachers who were enrolled in the program as of September 1, 2020 **and** complete the program during a semester that began during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Eligibility will be determined by state-approved educator preparation providers.

Next Steps: Approved educator preparation providers will determine on a case-by- case basis that candidates are eligible for an alternative measure. Eligible candidates will work with preparation programs to meet the requirement through the approved alternative measure. CE preparation programs will recommend eligible teachers for certification and verify program completion. CE provisional teachers will apply for a standard certificate online as usual.

[1] *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9A-5.5(a)2, *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-8.7(a)4

CE-R Candidates Seeking Standard Certificate

Requirement: Typically, candidates holding a CE-R and teaching provisionally must take and pass edTPA for standard certification.

Rule Modification: The NJDOE is allowing CE-R provisional teachers that meet all other standard certification requirements during the public health emergency to demonstrate readiness to teach through effective or highly effective evaluations in lieu of edTPA.

Next Steps: CE-R provisional teachers will apply for a standard certificate online as usual.

Provisional Teachers Applying for their Standard Certificate

- Provisional teachers apply online for their standard certificate through the [Teacher Certification Information System (TCIS)](#). See slide 11 for more information.

- To be issued a standard certificate, candidates must meet the CE candidate requirements of mentoring and formal instruction and must have received two effective or highly effective final summative ratings.[1]

- The Provisional Teacher Process will accept electronic documentation of formal instruction for CE candidates.

  - The [Verification of Program Completion](#), [Verification of Program Completion for CE EPPs](#), and transcripts, when applicable, are only valid if emailed directly from the college, university, clearinghouse, etc. to altroute@doe.nj.gov.

[1] *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-8.7(a)2

How to Apply Online for the Standard Certificate for Provisional Teachers

1. Apply through the [Teacher Certification Information System (TCIS)](#). New applicants must register.

2. Follow all instructions on the online system page and select the standard certificate area for which you are applying.

3. Complete the online oath and pay the appropriate fee, if required.

   Note: Educator preparation programs must submit the applicable [Verification of Program Completion](#) form and transcripts to the Office of Certification and Induction on behalf of the following candidates:

   - Certificate of Eligibility (CE) candidates who complete a **400-hour CE educator preparation program (CE EPP)**
   - Candidates who hold **CEs in English as a Second Language (ESL), Bilingual/Bicultural and Teacher of Students with Disabilities (TOSD)** *(Must include official transcripts)*
   - Candidates who hold a **CE in Preschool through Grade 3 (P-3)** *(Must include official transcripts)*

4. After completing the online application, receive a confirmation email. Complete the mandatory online survey linked in the confirmation email.

Leveraging edTPA

Strong pedagogical skills, as measured through performance assessment, are foundational to educator and student success.

While all eligible candidates will earn certification, those who completed edTPA may leverage this experience by:

- Adding edTPA to their resumes
- Marketing themselves as edTPA-completers when seeking employment
- Using specific examples from edTPA reflections when responding to interview questions
- Utilizing edTPA results when working with mentors to develop professional learning plans
- Reporting edTPA results to states requiring it for reciprocity

Resources for Candidates

- Access TCIS and the [Online Certification Application](#).

- Read New Jersey's [COVID-19 Performance Assessment Guidance](#).

- Learn more about New Jersey's [Reciprocity Policies](#).

- View New Jersey's [Certification Requirements](#).

- View New Jersey's [CE New Teacher Guidance](#) and [CEAS New Teacher Guidance](#).

- Learn more about the New Jersey [Provisional Teacher Process](#).

Thank You!

New Jersey Department of Education Website
http://www.nj.gov/education/

Questions or comments?

Contact the NJDOE: certification.outreach@doe.nj.gov

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