

# TEACHING PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT IN CALIFORNIA

*Information for Multiple and Single  
Subject Teacher Candidates*

## What is the Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA)?

California's students deserve well-prepared and effective teachers. 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 a better-prepared teacher who can help students succeed.

## 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:

- planning lessons with consideration for English learners and other students with learning challenges
- teaching the lessons to the K-12 students in public school classrooms
- planning and giving student assessments or tests based on the lessons
- reflecting on their own instruction
- examining student work and assessment results as evidence of the effectiveness of their instruction

*"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

## How is the TPA Scored?

A set of scoring rubrics describe what the candidate's performance would look like at each score level, from a low of 1 to a high of 4. Trained assessors apply the scoring rubric in a way that is consistent and fair to all candidates.

## 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?

The teaching performance assessment is embedded within each teacher preparation program. The program will provide candidates with information about the TPA requirement, the TPA content and format, and the Teaching Performance Expectations. Candidates will have opportunities to practice the TPA before submitting responses for scoring, and they will receive feedback about their performance on each task. Candidates can retake the TPA if necessary.

## How Are TPA Results Used?

TPA results show if a teacher candidate is effective in teaching K-12 students, and also if the preparation program has been effective in preparing the teacher candidate to be successful in the classroom. Candidates use the TPA results to continue to improve

their practice, and may share the results with Induction programs to help inform the Individual Induction Plan.

## Other Important Information for Teacher Candidates About the TPA

Candidates will need to provide 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 may also have to submit a video of their teaching performance in a K-12 classroom. 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. A "Candidate Handbook," which will be provided to each candidate by the teacher preparation program, gives detailed information about how to complete the TPA and how to submit TPA responses, including samples of student work and, if required, the video.

## For More Information

General information about the TPA requirement is available on the web at <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/TPA.html>. Information specific to the teacher preparation program is available by contacting the teacher candidate's preparation program sponsor.



California Teaching Performance Assessment  
1900 Capitol Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95811

*"I feel more confident and 'ready to teach'.  
The TPA put it all together for me."  
Middle School Teacher*



COMMISSION ON  
TEACHER CREDENTIALING  
*Ensuring Educator Excellence*