

### Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy 5.105

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#### **The Background:**

To become a licensed educator in Tennessee, individuals must demonstrate both content and pedagogical competencies through assessments.

This final read item recommends pedagogical and content assessment requirements for a new Mathematics 6-10 endorsement. In addition, based on State Board staff analyses and subsequent discussion by the State Board Subcommittee on Educator Licensure and Preparation, the Department recommends postponing the increase in edTPA cut scores for one year to allow additional time for Educator Preparation Providers to refine their practices and support student success.

Additionally, this item proposes revisions between first and final reading to add flexibility to pedagogical assessment requirements to account for teacher candidates' unique clinical practice experiences during the 2020-21 school year. Educator preparation programs across the state have redesigned clinical practice requirements and experiences during the 2020-21 school year to account for the unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 public health emergency. At the same time, Department and State Board staff have heard from EPPs and prospective teachers about the need for flexibility in pedagogical assessment requirements to account for potential health risks or significant logistical challenges that make it difficult for teacher candidates to complete various edTPA requirements.

The proposed flexibility would allow certain teachers and teacher candidates to submit qualifying scores on the Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) assessment instead of the edTPA under specific circumstances related to health and logistical challenges during clinical practice. The Department and State Board staff recognize the value of edTPA in preparing effective teachers. Candidates will be strongly encouraged to complete the edTPA where possible. EPPs will be required to submit documentation to the Department indicating that candidates were unable to complete the edTPA due to significant health concerns or logistical challenges in order for candidates to be afforded this flexibility.

Lastly, references to assessments set to phase out in August of 2020 have been removed.

#### **The Fiscal Analysis Impact:**

T.C.A. § 49-1 -212 requires that the Department 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.

**Policy Justification:**

T.C.A. § 4-5-230 requires that justification for adopting an item as a policy instead of a rule be submitted to the chair of the Government Operations Committee. This item is proposed to be adopted as a policy because it defines or explains the meaning of a statute or rule and/or concerns only the internal management of state government that does not affect private rights or privileges.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.