

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:**

**June 2, 2021**

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education adopts the recommendation from the Connecticut State Department of Education to implement a waiver of the edTPA cut score for all Connecticut educator preparation provider (EPP) program candidates completing and submitting for scoring an edTPA portfolio during the period September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022, and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_, this second day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-One.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary  
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Acting Commissioner of Education

DATE: June 2, 2021

SUBJECT: edTPA Cut Score Waiver Recommendation

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

This report provides the State Board of Education (SBE) with a rationale for the recommendation that the SBE waive the edTPA cut score requirement for all Connecticut educator preparation provider (EPP) program candidates completing and submitting for scoring an edTPA portfolio during the 2021-2022 academic year, September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022.

**History/Background**

In accordance with Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order 7c, (Attachment A), during spring 2020 the Commissioner of Education provided Connecticut EPPs with guidelines for the extension of flexibilities for candidates enrolled in SBE-approved EPPs whose student teaching and clinical placements were being impacted by COVID-19 and the widespread cancellation of school classes in Connecticut.

One such flexibility pertained to edTPA, the SBE-adopted performance-based assessment that all initial certification candidates enrolled in Connecticut EPPs must complete and pass during the student teaching experience as an EPP program completion requirement. The Department's position is that edTPA is a valuable performance-based, subject-specific assessment of candidate pedagogy, emphasizing, supporting and measuring the skills and knowledge that all teachers need prior to entering the classroom. Further, edTPA has become integral to the training and preparation of Connecticut EPP program candidates. For these reasons, the Commissioner's guidelines indicated that if possible, candidates should complete edTPA as required during spring 2020; however, the edTPA cut score requirement would be waived for the spring 2020 semester. Additionally, each EPP submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) a list of candidates unable to complete edTPA during the spring 2020 semester due to COVID-19 circumstances for edTPA completion waivers.

On August 11, 2020, due to the continued impact of COVID-19 on student teaching and clinical experience placements, the SBE adopted a recommendation from the CSDE to continue to implement a waiver of the edTPA cut score for all EPP teacher candidates completing and submitting for scoring an edTPA portfolio during the period September 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021. Additionally, uncertainty related to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and virtual synchronous vs. asynchronous instructional settings continued to raise

concerns regarding the ability of teacher candidates to successfully complete an edTPA portfolio. Therefore, the CSDE issued the following additional flexibilities for EPPs related to the implementation of edTPA for the academic year 2020-2021:

- Student teaching candidates will not be required to submit an edTPA portfolio to Pearson (testing company) for scoring during the 2020-21 academic year. Each Connecticut EPP may still require that candidates submit portfolios to Pearson for scoring, but this is to be determined by each EPP. Per the Connecticut State Board of Education (SBE), the edTPA cut score is waived for the 2020-21 academic year for any candidate submitting an edTPA portfolio to Pearson for scoring.
- In order to maintain continuity and support candidate training and preparation through the edTPA process, all student teaching candidates must submit edTPA Task 1 and Task 3 for locally determined (EPP) review and evaluation. It is up to each EPP to determine how the EPP will evaluate candidate edTPA submission materials. The CSDE will require each EPP to submit a brief summary to the CSDE describing how the EPP will evaluate candidate edTPA work and materials (process forthcoming).
- All EPPs will be required to attest to each candidate's submission and successful evaluation of edTPA portfolio task requirements on the candidate's ED170A form.

For the academic year 2021-2022, edTPA will be fully re-instated, with all teacher candidates completing student teaching with Connecticut EPP programs required to complete edTPA and submit portfolios to Pearson for scoring. However, due to the continued impact of COVID-19, the CSDE is recommending that the cut score waiver of edTPA scores continue for the academic year 2021-2022, until August 31, 2022. In partnership with the CSDE and Connecticut districts, Connecticut EPPs have worked diligently on revising clinical and fieldwork experiences to meet teacher candidate training needs under two COVID-related, non-standard instructional models proposed by Governor Lamont in his school re-opening plan: hybrid in-person/virtual teaching or full virtual teaching. These efforts have also included significant revisions to the support, monitoring, and evaluation of student teachers based on the two non-standard models, including supporting candidates completing edTPA under the models. Although EPPs and districts have responded admirably to circumstances related to COVID-19, challenges still exist as Connecticut EPPs, teacher candidates, and districts continue to deal with various COVID-related issues moving into fall 2021, including supporting, monitoring, evaluating teacher candidates during the student teaching experience.

### **Recommendation and Justification**

Due to COVID-related circumstances, the 2021-2022 academic year will be challenging for Connecticut EPPs and their teacher candidates seeking to complete student teaching requirements for certification, as EPPs endeavor to implement newly-revised support, monitoring, and evaluation systems for the student teaching experience, including the completion of edTPA.

Therefore, although the edTPA completion and scoring requirements would remain in effect, I am recommending that the edTPA cut score continue to be waived for all Connecticut EPP

candidates completing and submitting for scoring an edTPA portfolio during the 2021-2022 academic year, September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022. This waiver will serve to support Connecticut EPPs and their candidates in successfully implementing adjustments required to accommodate the two non-standard instructional models described in Governor Lamont's re-opening plan, including incorporating the training and preparation benefits of edTPA without the requirement of achieving a specific score on the edTPA.

**Follow-up Activity**

If the SBE approves the recommendation to waive the edTPA cut score requirement for candidates completing and submitting for scoring an edTPA portfolio during the academic year 2021-2022, the CSDE will notify Connecticut EPPs immediately so that they may begin planning accordingly.

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