



HB 3354: Eliminate Biased Barriers to Teacher Licensure

The edTPA is a performance-based standardized test and portfolio process used in teacher preparation programs across Oregon and other states, currently required for a candidate to obtain licensure and entry into the profession. The edTPA has come to be viewed for what it is: a biased national, corporate-administered process that few teachers view as a reliable measure of preparedness for the teaching profession and a barrier that disproportionately impedes aspiring BIPOC educators from receiving their license. It is time to eliminate and replace the edTPA.

The edTPA promotes inequitable practices on multiple levels. The edTPA disproportionately affects the time-to-degree of students of color as well as those living in poverty. At \$300 per test, it becomes cost prohibitive for candidates who must retake the exam in its entirety or by individual section.

All research points to the efficacy and value of high-quality practicum and student teaching experiences for cementing an educator's pedagogical skills for entry into the profession. In the past, Oregon candidates used a standardized and regulated process (governed by TSPC) where candidates needed to demonstrate their teaching skills through a work sample portfolio process. The corporate, standardized edTPA has supplanted this practical, hands-on and portfolio-based proficiency.

A better option for teacher proficiency

HB 3354 eliminates the requirement for teacher candidates to take and pass the edTPA prior to applying for teacher licensure. Preparation programs would still have to assert that the graduate had successfully completed all other aspects of the program and can demonstrate proficiency to qualify for a teaching license. The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) will work with stakeholders to develop a performance-based measure, along with all the standardization, rubrics and processes necessary to ensure consistency and accountability for existing standards across all licensure programs.

HB 3354 requires approved preparation programs to ensure that the candidate demonstrates the knowledge, skill and competencies required in law, in addition to requiring teacher preparation programs to implement a procedure for evaluating and recommending candidates aligned with the recommended process the TSPC will develop.

We must do everything possible to diversify Oregon's educator workforce and break down barriers to entry that keep aspiring educators out of the profession. Support HB 3354 to modernize, localize and create authentic teacher preparation accountability and ensure a process that is fair and welcoming for all.