

Dear House Committee,

My name is Sarah Gibson, I am a 7th and 8th-grade teacher for the Gresham-Barlow School District living in Sandy, Or. I am writing to encourage you to support HB 3354.

I was one of the first groups of students that underwent edTPA testing. It was not only daunting but, in the long run, now seems harmful to my education and not the most reliable tool for educator assessment.

One of the biggest concerns of the continued use of edTPA testing is the impact on teacher education. Several courses intended to give me the skills I needed to be an effective and impactful teacher became classes that only discussed the different tasks of edTPA. My assessment course, a challenging area of education for many teachers, covered very little beyond how to write the assessment section of edTPA. Teaching to the test is far from best practice because of the technical and confusing nature of edTPA without that, I do not think I would have passed. I lost out on needed instruction to pass the test that decided if I could become an educator or not. I have had to take it upon myself to fill the gaps caused by edTPA, time I could have utilized to deepen my knowledge on more complex topics rather than teaching myself some of the basics.

Another issue with edTPA is how impersonal the assessment is designed to be. The instructors and mentors that I had gone to time and time again were forbidden from giving me advice or feedback on anything relating to edTPA for fear of it invalidating my final score, a struggle for many education students in my program. Even with the amount of course time diverted to teach us how to write these tasks, we still felt incredibly unprepared to complete them.

edTPA is scored by a random evaluator in another state. This person has total control over whether or not students pass the test and are eligible for licensure. A person watched me teach from prerecorded video clips that could not be longer than 20 minutes and read about my planning process, execution of content, and a reflection of my work. I questioned this when edTPA was first explained; how can someone determine if I am competent enough to receive licensure based on 20 minutes of video and some narrative of my process?

The final and perhaps most important piece of criticism of edTPA is questions of reliability within the scoring system. Drew H. Gitomer, José Felipe Martínez, & Dan Battey ([Who's Assessing the Assessment? The cautionary tale of the edTPA](#)) have raised several questions about the reliability of edTPA. In 2019 Gitomer's questions about the reliability of edTPA were so concerning he recommended the test no longer be used until the issue of reliability was addressed and solved. SCALE (Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity) and Pearson refuted the claims in a corporate release. Several States accepted this response without further question.

One of the biggest questions brought up is how SCALE and Pearson have determined reliability; "edTPA uses an "invented" version of kappa that takes into account both exact

agreement and adjacent agreement, or when ratings fall within one performance level of one another. For instance, the rubrics are graded on a five-point scale. If one rater gives a score of 3, and another gives a 2, edTPA would count that as agreement” ([Researchers: Stop Using EdTPA Scores in Teacher-Certification Decisions](#)). This system is highly concerning with a test that determines the futures of educators in Oregon. Oregon’s passing score for edTPA is 35 for the majority of subjects. Receiving all 3’s on the rubrics would give you a passing score of 45 but, receiving all 2’s gives a failing score of 30. Based on the reliability testing of edTPA, a score of 3 is in alignment with a score of 2. Scoring reliability based on the individual rubrics does show reliability. Proof of reliability on the overall score is lacking. Trusting their reliability scores could lead to qualified and effective educators not passing and therefore unable to teach.

Based on the above information, it is crucial that edTPA no longer be the standard for licensure in Oregon.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Gibson