Illinois Institutions of Higher Education teacher preparation programs are in the process of piloting the edTPA™, a teacher performance assessment for teacher candidates. As part of this assessment, candidates will be required to submit a video recording of their student teaching in the classroom along with samples of student work. The Illinois State Board of Education Preparation and Evaluation Division and under counsel of ISBE Legal Division has guidance on certain elements relating to the video recording requirement of edTPA™ to assist in implementing this process within your educator preparation program(s).

ISBE recognizes that the use of technology where students may be video recorded in the classroom presents concerns and challenges for parents and students as well as educators and administrators. ISBE encourages educator preparation programs to assist student teachers by making safe, secure video recording options available to them. For instance, your program or institution may wish to consider providing video cameras to student teachers for their use in completing the assessment rather than students utilizing their own devices, such as smart phones, to record their teaching. Your program or institution may also wish to consider pursuing cooperation with the host school or district in utilizing school or district equipment for recording purposes. While neither of these approaches are required, ISBE believes that they reflect best practices for accomplishing this important assessment process while safeguarding the recorded material.

ISBE encourages institutions and programs to include a provision in their student teaching agreements with teacher candidates that describes the expectations for the candidates’ use, transmission, and destruction of classroom recordings for assessment. As an example, consider the following statement: “A teacher candidate engaged in student teaching who is required to submit a video recording of his/her classroom instruction pursuant to a teacher performance assessment agrees to treat as confidential any such video recording made or obtained by that candidate. The candidate agrees to take reasonable precautions to ensure the security and confidentiality of such video recording and agrees to only use such recording as required by the teacher performance assessment. Once the video recording has been transmitted to and received by the entity conducting the teacher performance assessment and/or the candidate’s program or institution, the candidate agrees to delete, erase, or physically destroy any local copy of the video recording. The candidate shall not share, post, or use the video recording for any other purpose. Failure to abide by this provision may result in adverse action, up to and including termination of the candidate’s student teaching assignment, termination from the program, or rejection of the candidate’s application for licensure with the Illinois State Board of Education.” A provision incorporating this type of information will help to protect confidential student information as well as set concrete expectations for the use of such video recordings and highlight potential consequences of misuse. Again, such a provision is not strictly required, but ISBE suggests that securing the agreement of candidates to protect confidentiality of teacher assessment video recordings will help to protect students, institutions, and school districts from unwanted consequences of unauthorized use of such recordings.