December, 2012

Illinois was one of six original states to pilot the Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA). The edTPA is a performance and knowledge assessment for pre-service teachers that gathers and uses evidence of the qualities of teaching performance to improve teaching and teacher preparation.

The edTPA was legislated by 105 ILCS 5/21B-30 (f) (from SB 1799) to say beginning on September 1, 2015, all candidates completing teacher preparation programs in this State are required to pass an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. All recognized institutions offering approved teacher preparation programs must begin phasing in the approved teacher performance assessment no later than July 1, 2013. Student Teachers must pass this assessment to be considered a completer of their teacher preparation program and to be eligible for entitlement by the college or university for their teaching license.

As such, the 58 teacher preparation programs in Illinois are at some level of setting the groundwork to meet the timeline required in the School Code.

Public schools are integral in the preparation of our future teachers. The edTPA is meant to evaluate the level at which these preservice teachers meet the performance standards in a consistent and comparable way within an authentic setting.

Pearson, our testing partner, is responsible for the assessment of the edTPA. They are in the process of training evaluators and providing ongoing professional development for these evaluators. Quality control, including statistical validity and reliability is Pearson’s responsibility.

edTPA targets five key competencies: planning, assessment, instruction, reflection, and academic language. The process used is similar to the process used for National Board certification. The student teacher must provide a professional portfolio, which is uploaded to a Pearson secure site. Specific artifacts reflecting the six competencies must be included in the portfolio including video recordings of the student teacher interaction with students in the classroom.