



## Policy Brief

### Vast Majority of New Texas Teachers Will Not be Assessed for *Day-One Readiness* Under the State’s edTPA Proposal

#### Current Context

The Texas State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) and the Texas Commissioner of Education, Mike Morath, have called for all new teachers to be fully ready to teach on their first day in Texas classrooms. Texas is proposing to replace the existing Texas pedagogy exam with the national edTPA pedagogy exam under the premise that passing the edTPA exam would ensure teachers are *Day-One Ready*.

#### Research Findings

Unfortunately, extensive analyses by Texas State University’s Research for EDucator Equity & Excellence (REDEE) Center show that the state’s edTPA proposal will fail to ensure *Day-One Readiness* for most people hired by schools as their official teachers-of-record. Using the state’s education data for 2019-20, the REDEE Center’s research shows three out of four groups of new teachers-of-record would not be assessed by edTPA before entering Texas classrooms and being fully responsible for students’ learning and academic growth. The four groups are:

- Licensed Interns have not completed a teacher preparation program but are currently enrolled in a program and are training to become teachers. These teachers-in-training make up 40% of new teachers-of-record (9,956) and they would not be assessed for *Day-One Readiness* under the state’s edTPA proposal.
- Unlicensed Instructors have not completed a teacher preparation program and hold no teaching license. They make up 17% of new teachers-of-record (4,172) and they would not be assessed for *Day-One Readiness*.
- Exempt Instructors have not completed a teacher preparation program and are exempt from most licensure testing requirements. Most hold a special “emergency” license, and a few transferred from out-of-state. They make up 12% of new teachers-of-record (3,102) and most would not be assessed for *Day-One Readiness*.
- Licensed Teachers have successfully completed a teacher preparation program that involved clinical or student teaching and they are fully licensed to teach. They make up 31% of new teachers-of-record (7,669), and they would be the only people assessed for *Day-One Readiness* under the state’s edTPA proposal.

New Teacher-of-Record Type	New Teachers-of-Record in Texas Classrooms	edTPA Tested for Day-One Readiness?
Licensed Teachers	7,669 (31%)	YES
Licensed Interns	9,956 (40%)	NO
Unlicensed Instructors	4,172 (17%)	NO
Exempt Instructors	3,012 (12%)	NO

Note: Data based on 2019-20 school year.

#### Policy & Educational Implications

- **69% of new teachers-of-record would not be tested for *Day-One Readiness*** under the state’s current edTPA proposal. The *Licensed Teachers* who would be edTPA tested are already the most effective new teachers in Texas public schools on Day One (Van Overschelde, Ellis, Nale, & López, 2022).
- SBEC and state policies allow schools to employ large numbers of untrained and unlicensed people as teachers-of-record. These policies contradict the goal of ensuring teachers are *Day-One Ready*.
- Teacher preparation programs should assess their own teacher candidates for *Day-One Readiness* with a rigorous performance assessment *before* allowing them to enter classrooms as teachers-of-record.