

Stanford University and Pearson Collaborate to Provide the Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) Nationally

Stanford University and Pearson have entered into a licensing agreement with Pearson, to provide TPA-related assessment services. As a nationally available teacher performance assessment, the TPA is designed and validated by Stanford University to:

- Measure candidate readiness for teaching
- Provide a multiple measure assessment of teaching performance
- Contribute evidence for licensure decisions (in combination with other measures)
- Provide a consistent measure across teacher preparation programs
- Support candidate learning and development of high leverage teaching practices
- Measure candidate ability to differentiate instruction for diverse learners, including English language learners and special education students
- Improve the information base for accreditation of teacher preparation programs

The goals and principles of the TPA can influence teacher education and student learning substantially if the TPA is available broadly for a sustainable period. Stanford is responsible for developing all handbooks and rubrics, conducting reliability and validity studies, and developing all scoring and training materials. In order to provide TPA-related assessment services broadly and sustainably, Stanford entered into an agreement with Pearson to build, test, implement and support many activities important to the effective and sound utilization of the TPA. Some of these activities include development support for field-testing, validation and reviews by equity, content and technical committees.

Pearson will work to support the contributions of the thousands of TPA participants so that their efforts are centrally integrated, analyzed, and documented in ways that will underscore the broad application of the TPA administered for many years.

Following are some additional questions and answers regarding the Stanford University and Pearson relationship on the TPA.

Q: What is Pearson's role in the implementation and roll out of the TPA?

A: Pearson will provide Stanford University with the assessment services to deliver the TPA nationally, including web-based services that allow candidates to electronically register for the TPA, assemble artifacts specified by the TPA handbook, request faculty/supervisor feedback, submit final TPA responses for official TPA training and scoring and receive a report of their performance. Pearson will also provide services such as the recruitment, training and certification of all scorers, scoring for all submitted TPA responses, and the generation of all official score reports to candidates and institutions of record (i.e., standard boards, state agencies, Institutions of Higher Education, including alternative preparation pathways).

Q: How did Stanford engage Pearson to provide services to support the TPA?

A: Stanford University has an office that handles the licensing of its intellectual property. Its Office of Technology Licensing (OTL) solicited six testing companies that develop teacher assessments for licensure. The offer by Pearson to the Stanford solicitation was the best offer. From the beginning, Pearson committed a strong and sustainable level of support to Stanford for the broad TPA-related assessment services, including field-testing, scoring, and validation of the TPA. In return, Stanford granted Pearson an exclusive license to provide assessment services connected the TPA.

Q: Is Pearson involved in aspects of the development work or field-testing?

A: In collaboration with Stanford, Pearson is supporting the continued TPA development work and field testing activities, including handbook publication, template design, recruitment and training of scorers, scoring and scorer compensation, benchmarking, and reporting results to participating institutions of higher education (IHEs). An electronic platform to manage TPA scoring training and submissions will be provided by Pearson beginning with the 2011-12 field testing. Stanford will design and develop the teacher assessment tasks, handbooks, rubrics, and design the reliability and validity studies that are conducted to support this work.

Q: Will the Pearson platform replace other electronic portfolio vendors for TPA?

A: No. Electronic platform providers (e.g. TaskStream, Livetext, Chalk & Wire, and Tk20) are working very closely with Pearson so that candidates can construct and submit their TPA materials for scoring to the Pearson platform via the platform used at their campus. Candidates at campuses without a commercially available electronic platform will be able to submit their materials through the Pearson platform.

Q: Is Pearson charging candidates or their teacher preparation programs a fee for assessment services related to the TPA?

A: Pearson will not charge a fee to candidates for their participation in the 2011-2012 field test.

To support the operational and ongoing implementation of TPA nationally as a sustainable state level licensure assessment system after the 2011-12 field test, Pearson will charge an operational assessment fee to candidates for all states that formally adopt through legislation or regulation the TPA for licensure and/or accreditation. With the current TPA design, the fee that will be determined is aimed to not exceed \$300 per candidate. This is the lowest fee in the nation for a performance-based assessment of teaching used for licensure. Moreover, using candidate fees to support state level implementation is a standard operating procedure similar to other state

teacher licensure assessments, such as basic skills and content knowledge teacher tests.

Q: How will Pearson's support the field test phase of the TPA development?

A: Pearson will provide the handbook publication, technology systems, customer service, scorer recruitment and training, scoring, data analysis, reporting, and quality control measures to support the field test phase of the TPA development.

Q: How does Pearson's role in support of activities during the field test relate to operational use by a state of the TPA?

A: If your state, standards board or institution desires use the TPA for licensure and/or accreditation either through a competitive bid process or a sole-source procurement, Pearson will be the contracting party as Stanford's exclusive TPA licensee and service provider.

Q: How can teacher preparation programs utilize their candidates' results from the TPA (e.g., for accreditation)?

A: With a research-based valid teacher performance assessment that is "educative," aligned to Common Core State Standards and InTASC standards, teacher preparation programs will have research-based evidence for ongoing program improvement and be able to examine how they are preparing quality teachers highly effective in producing positive outcomes for students.

Q: How will the TPA be made available for consideration by states and/or preparation providers?

A: The TPA is being validated in more than 20 states. Based on state licensure policy development, we anticipate a number of the states or standards boards involved in the field trial will seek to adopt the Stanford TPA once the validation studies are complete. We anticipate that individual state procurement policies will be followed and that Pearson would participate in them to implement the Stanford TPA statewide.

For Institutions of Higher Education in states without a statewide TPA policy or those with policy that is not consequential once the TPA is operational, Pearson will work with the states and Institutions of Higher Education to explore the best way to keep involved in the use of the TPA.

Q: Who will actually own the TPA upon completion of field-testing and final development work?

A: Stanford is the exclusive author and owner of the TPA.