Item 12:

Discussion and Action on Extending the Timeline on the Texas edTPA Pilot

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

SUMMARY: This item provides the SBEC the opportunity to extend the edTPA performance assessment pilot period one year; from September 1, 2021 to September 1, 2022.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for the classroom teacher class certificate structure is Texas Education Code (TEC), §§21.003(a), 21.031, and 21.041(b)(1), (2), and (4), 21.041(c), 21.044(a), 21.0441, 21.0418(a).

FUTURE ACTION EXPECTED: Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff anticipates presenting an edTPA pilot update to the Board at each SBEC meeting with an official review by the Board prior to September 1, 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: At the July 2019 SBEC meeting, the Board approved the edTPA performance assessment pilot to run two consecutive years. As a result of that meeting, SBEC rule requires that the Board review the edTPA pilot data no later than September 1, 2021. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on educator preparation and those impacted by the execution of the performance assessment, TEA staff recommends that the SBEC extend the pilot period one year, to include a third pilot year. TEA staff will continue to provide updates to the SBEC at each meeting.

Update and Staff Recommendation

COVID-19 has significantly impacted the education landscape in Texas, including educator preparation. Its onset has required local education agencies and educator preparation programs to engage in rapid change to meet the demands of the moment while continuing to prioritize the needs of students first. Since February 2020, TEA staff have worked in close collaboration with 35 educator preparation programs to plan for the pilot implementation of edTPA during the 2020–2021 academic year. These programs have worked to implement broad scale programmatic changes due to COVID-19 while also working to implement the edTPA, which also necessitates programmatic change.

Since the onset of COVID-19, the SBEC charged TEA staff to remain sensitive to the needs of candidates, programs, and school districts during this time and offer support and flexibility whenever possible. With this in mind, TEA staff is recommending that the Board extend the edTPA pilot for a third year, ending September 1, 2022 rather that September 1, 2021.
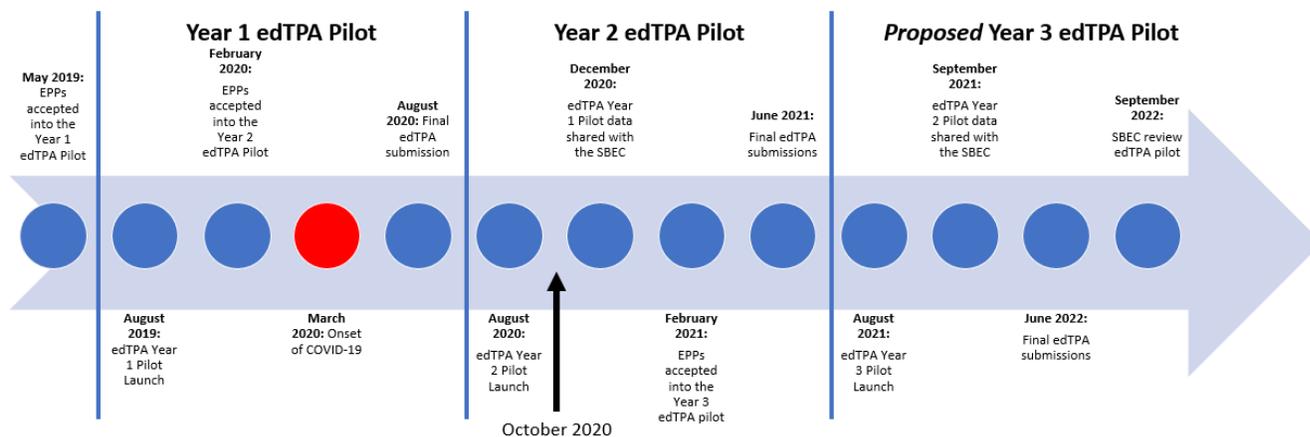
Extending the edTPA pilot for a third year would demonstrate sensitivity to the reality of the situation and allow for a longer runway for those candidates and preparation programs who are interested in piloting the edTPA. The extension would also allow Sam Houston State University additional time to collect candidate data in their study.

Throughout the extension of the pilot, TEA staff would continue to provide ongoing support to programs and work with Sam Houston State University as they conduct their study.

edTPA Next Steps

The SBEC approved a two-year pilot of the edTPA, with the expressed purpose of gathering data on the impact of edTPA implementation on Texas candidates. The Board has directed TEA staff to collect and analyze data related to the implementation of the edTPA across both years of the pilot to make decisions grounded in Texas data related to edTPA implementation going forward. The pilot period does not denote a start and end time for educator preparation programs or candidates but provides a time period to collect data to allow SBEC to determine the impact and effectiveness of the exam for certification purposes. If the SBEC approves the pilot period extension, programs will have a third year to pilot the edTPA.

At the May and July 2020 SBEC meetings, TEA staff provided an update on the edTPA and shared that there would be a summary of year one edTPA pilot data for the Board's review at the October 2020 SBEC meeting. Given the recommendation to extend the pilot period, SBEC Board Chair, Dr. Art Cavazos, directed staff to provide the Board with a timeline in this agenda item and then to bring a summary of year one data to the Board for their review in December 2020. The proposed edTPA pilot timeline that is inclusive of a third-year pilot can be found below. In addition, a detailed version of the timeline can be found in the attachment.

Currently, all EPPs that participated in the year one edTPA pilot have access to their programmatic edTPA data and have been provided support in leveraging the data for continuous improvement.

With the proposed action, TEA staff would continue to:
- gather data on Texas pilot implementation of the edTPA,
- support preparation programs and candidates who are participating in the pilot,
- provide the SBEC with continual updates at SBEC meetings,
- work with Sam Houston State University on their study,
- provide an update on the outcomes of the second-year pilot in Fall 2021, and
- an analysis of all three years of implementation in Fall 2022.

If the SBEC approves the extension of the pilot period, TEA staff will bring a rule action item at the December 11, 2020 meeting to codify the new review date of September 1, 2022.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the extension of the edTPA pilot period and direct TEA staff to bring proposed rule language at the December 11, 2020 SBEC meeting to codify the extension of the pilot period in the Texas Administrative Code.

Staff Members Responsible:
Jessica McLoughlin, Director, Educator Standards and Testing
DeMarco Pitre, Educator Standards and Testing Specialist

Attachment:
edTPA Pilot Timeline

ATTACHMENT

Proposed edTPA Pilot Timeline

Date	Action
Year One edTPA Pilot Begins	
May 3, 2019	Notification of acceptance for year one edTPA pilot sent to participating EPPs
May–August 2019	TEA and edTPA National Academy member webinar series
August 2019	2019–2020 academic year begins
September 1, 2019	Initial data collection on candidate participation in edTPA pilot
October 24, 2019	First window closes for submission of edTPA portfolio.
March 2020	***Onset of COVID-19***
March 2020	Guidance shared with pilot programs regarding completion of edTPA in a virtual learning environment
May 2020	2019–2020 academic year ends
August 20, 2020	Final window closes for submission of edTPA portfolio.
December 11, 2020	edTPA year one pilot data summary shared with the SBEC at the December 2020 SBEC meeting
Ongoing	Collection of edTPA demographic, performance, and perception data. Regional workshops and monthly TEA webinars
Year Two edTPA Pilot Begins	
October 31, 2019	Release of year two edTPA pilot applications
February 14, 2020	Notification of acceptance for year two edTPA pilot sent to participating EPPs, including recipients of edTPA Pilot Support and edTPA Regional Coordinator grants
March 2020	***Onset of COVID-19***
March–August 2020	TEA and edTPA National Academy member webinar series in preparation for year two pilot implementation
August 2020	2020–2021 academic year begins
September 30, 2020	Initial data collection on candidate participation in edTPA pilot
October 8, 2020	First window closes for submission of edTPA portfolio.
October 9, 2020	***Proposed extension of the edTPA pilot for a third year at the October 2020 SBEC meeting, allowing pilot programs flexibility for participation in year two and year three of the edTPA pilot***
December 11, 2020	***Proposed extension of the edTPA pilot implementation date through September 2022 at the December SBEC meeting***

December 2020	Second opportunity to update data collection on candidate participation in edTPA pilot given proposed pilot extension
May 2021	2020–2021 academic year ends
August 5, 2021	Final window closes for submission of edTPA portfolio.
Ongoing	Collection of edTPA demographic, performance, and perception data. edTPA Regional workshops, Monthly edTPA webinars facilitated by National Academy members, and monthly TEA Webinars led by the edTPA Regional Coordinators
Proposed Year Three edTPA Pilot Begins (tentative dates)	
December 2020	Release of year three edTPA pilot applications
February 2020	Notification of acceptance for year three edTPA pilot sent to participating EPPs
March–August 2021	TEA and edTPA National Academy member webinar series in preparation for year two pilot implementation
August 2021	2021–2022 academic year begins
September 2021	Initial data collection on candidate participation in edTPA pilot
October 2021	First window closes for submission of edTPA portfolio.
May 2022	2021–2022 academic year ends
August 2022	Final window closes for submission of edTPA portfolio.
By September 2022	SBEC makes final determination regarding implementation of the edTPA in Texas based on edTPA pilot data.
Ongoing	Collection of edTPA demographic, performance, and perception data. edTPA Regional workshops, Monthly edTPA webinars facilitated by National Academy members, and monthly TEA Webinars led by the edTPA Regional Coordinators