



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 18, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Deans, Directors of Educator Preparation Programs
From: Christopher Irving, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Support and Services

Certification Performance Assessment Requirement: Educator Preparation Program Guidance

On Friday, December 16, 2022, Governor Phil Murphy signed [S896 w/GR](#) into law, which prohibits the State Board of Education from requiring the completion of a Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment for certification. The law shifts the responsibility of determining the performance assessment for program completion to educator preparation programs (EPP) beginning with spring 2024 program completers. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) intends to promulgate regulations, offer guidance, and support educator preparation programs as they implement the law. In the meantime, as the law takes effect immediately, the NJDOE and educator preparation programs (EPPs) will begin implementation in accordance with the following general guidelines.

Effective until the promulgation of regulations, this guidance provides information regarding the process for amending performance assessment requirements and recommending program completers for certification.

Amending the Performance Assessment Requirement for Approved EPPs

Approved New Jersey EPPs may identify a temporary measure of pedagogical skills in lieu of the Commissioner-approved performance assessment currently required for program completion. If an EPP chooses to identify a temporary measure of pedagogical skills for program completion, the EPP must submit an amendment by completing the Temporary Performance Measures for Approved EPPs form and send an email to rpr@doe.nj.gov indicating the completion of the form by February 23, 2023. The email must be sent by or carbon-copy the dean or director of the EPP.

Recommending Program Completers for Certification

Per N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-4.5, EPPs have a year from when the candidate completed the approved program to recommend them to the NJDOE for issuance of a certificate. EPPs may recommend the following candidates for certificates of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS) and standard certification using the NJEdCert nomination process:

- Program completers who demonstrated readiness to teach and met all certification requirements except the Commissioner-approved performance assessment between fall 2021 and fall 2022. EPPs must maintain a record of all program completers exempted from meeting the Commissioner-approved performance assessment requirement.
- Program completers who meet all certification requirements after fall 2022 and before spring 2024, including the current Commissioner-approved performance assessment (edTPA) or the EPP's amended performance assessment requirement. EPPs using amended performance assessment requirements to determine successful program completion must notify the NJDOE of amendments prior to nominating candidates for certification or completing Verification of Program Completion (VOPC) forms in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-3.2(c).

Candidates applying for a CEAS on their own are exempt from the Commissioner-approved performance assessment and may be issued a CEAS provided they meet all other certification requirements. On a case-by-case basis, approved New Jersey EPPs have the discretion to complete VOPC forms for program completers who demonstrated readiness to teach and met the certification requirements, except the Commissioner-approved performance assessment prior to December 2021.

EPPs are responsible for maintaining program completer data inclusive of performance assessment data and meeting all accreditation requirements.

Contact Information

Email questions concerning performance assessment requirements to rpr@doe.nj.gov.

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- NJDOE Staff
- Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
- Garden State Coalition of Schools
- NJ LEE Group