

Pedagogical Performance Assessment

In Utah, a pedagogical performance assessment is required to earn professional educator licensure. This requirement established a consistent standard for instructional competency of teacher candidates for professional licensure across all pathways to teaching in our state. This document describes what a pedagogical performance assessment is and the benefits to stakeholders.

WHAT IS A PEDAGOGICAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT?

A pedagogical performance assessment is an authentic, performance-based method, embedded in a learning environment, for teacher candidates to demonstrate their instructional effectiveness. It is a mechanism to provide evidence to the teacher candidate, states, educator preparation programs, and local education agencies that the educator has achieved essential professional competencies and skills with impact on student learning by measuring their ability to:

- Design instruction based on their teaching context and students' strengths and needs
- Implement lessons with well-articulated learning goals
- Engage students in deep subject-specific instruction effectively
- Analyze student learning to inform next steps for instruction using assessments to make data-driven decisions.

This cycle of planning, instruction, and assessment mirrors what effective teachers do day-to-day to ensure their students learn.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A PEDAGOGICAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT?

A pedagogical performance assessment is beneficial to all stakeholders. In general, the assessment helps identify the areas where teacher candidates have strengths, as well as areas for further professional development. Benefits specific to each stakeholder are listed below.



BENEFITS FOR TEACHER CANDIDATE

- Provides experiences grounded in the science of the profession
- Reinforces and increases professional confidence to impact PreK–12 student learning
- Enhances ability to respond to interview questions by using specific examples and details
- Deepens knowledge of essential competencies of teaching
- Fulfills a licensure requirement for Utah
- Provides an opportunity to apply and showcase their learning across the duration of their preparation program
- Increases the portability of license to other states

BENEFITS FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PATHWAY

- Provides a professionally recognized framework to leverage in the candidate evaluative process
- Increases confidence and credibility in program design and delivery considering the reliability and validity of pedagogical performance assessments
- Reinforces program's influence on candidate preparation
- Strengthens consistency across programs around minimum pedagogical performance expectations
- Informs program outcomes and contributes to continuous improvement efforts
- Demonstrates evidence of content and content-specific pedagogical preparation

BENEFITS FOR LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA)

- Provides evidence that an established standard of instructional competency has been achieved
- Identifies strengths and areas for future professional learning and mentoring supports
- Documents a teacher candidate's ability to integrate knowledge and skills to impact student learning
- Provides evidence that the candidate is prepared to serve diverse student populations.



BENEFITS FOR STATE EDUCATION AGENCY (SEA)

- Establishes a consistent standard of instructional competency for professional licensure across pathways to teaching
- Provides a valid and reliable measure of accountability required by Utah code that brings credibility to pathways
- Provides a framework for feedback of educator preparation pathways and levels of success

