

edTPA in Virtual Learning Environment

Frequently asked questions and answers from SCALE, July 2020

1. *Must all students have internet access?*

Candidates may find that not all students have access to the internet. Some districts may take steps to enable access (e.g. distribute hotspots to enable access; work with other students who can access the internet). Other situations may arise where families have one device that multiple children share, allowing only one student online at a time. Situations such as these are beyond the candidate's control and can be reflected in the Context for Learning.

2. *Must students be familiar with platforms such as zoom?*

Not all students who have who have internet access will log into the instructional platform. That, too, is beyond the candidate's control and can be noted in the Context for Learning. In many of these cases, the candidate can select a small group of students for the edTPA learning segment rather than the whole class. Regarding familiarity with the virtual platform, the candidate (or cooperating teacher) will need to familiarize students with the features of the platform the district is using.

3. *What technical difficulties should be anticipated during Task 2?*

- a. Anticipated technical difficulties include the **audio or video dropping** as a result of limited or low internet bandwidth (on either the student or the candidate end). If the audio drops, the candidate can provide a transcript of the missing audio. Candidates should ensure that they are able to meet the technical specifications and requirements of the handbook (e.g. seeing the candidate and the students in the video; providing synchronous instruction).
- b. If district policy does not allow students to make their **home environment** visible (as it is a district violation of privacy) some platforms allow a user to select from a variety of backgrounds which will not show the home environment. The candidate will need to consult with the cooperating/mentor teacher or building administrator on district policy.
- c. Candidates should ensure that they are able to meet the technical specifications and **requirements of the handbook**. If they are not able to complete the edTPA due to district restrictions or instructional delivery platforms, the candidate should consult with the program/ state education agency about how licensing requirements can be met. In all cases, candidates should consult Guidance for Completing edTPA in a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), was developed by SCALE and Pearson.

4. *May the candidate divide a large class into smaller groups and teach the lessons at different times to each group?*

Yes, the technical specifications regarding class size are outlined in the handbook and do allow for smaller groups as long as the minimum number of students required by the handbook is met (generally four students). The candidate would select only one group for the edTPA learning segment and should follow the host district's and/or cooperating teacher's policy about the group size being taught for the purpose of edTPA

5. *How does the candidate communicate information to students/parents regarding the virtual edTPA?*

The candidate should follow the guidance provided by the EPP (Educator Preparation Program) and the district/school direction about communication regarding edTPA. The letter accompanying the consent form can be modified to note that it will be completed in the VLE. **Parental consent for video recording is still required.**

6. *Are parents allowed to help with maintaining camera angles and audio, especially with young learners?*

- a. Yes, when providing synchronous instruction, the teacher candidate should consider engaging parents/guardians in the learning environment to assist with maintaining camera angles and audio to ensure that children may be seen and heard, provide any required materials children need to engage in the learning experience(s) and assist with the technical features (e.g. chat box).
- b. To ensure that all students can participate in the instruction, the candidate should work with the cooperating teacher to determine which households need more tech support and how it can be provided.

- a. *How does the candidate respond to absences, especially students selected for video clips?*

Candidates should respond to virtual absences in the same way they respond to physical absences in face-to-face settings.