

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools 

DATE: July 23, 2024

SUBJECT: edTPA and PPAT Assessments – Adoption of Passing Scores

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to request permission to adopt the Maryland State Department of Education’s recommended passing score implementation plan for the approved nationally recognized performance-based assessments required for initial teacher licensure.

Background

Maryland Code, Education Article §6-126 requires candidates enrolled in Maryland-approved teacher preparation programs to submit the following to earn a license beginning July 1, 2025:

- Demonstration of basic skills
- Demonstration of content knowledge
- Demonstration of the ability to provide reading instruction
- Demonstration of pedagogical knowledge

Maryland teacher candidates may demonstrate pedagogical knowledge by passing a nationally recognized performance-based assessment or completing a local education agency induction program that meets the criteria outlined in the law.

Executive Summary

MSDE is adopting a phase-in plan to set passing scores for the edTPA and PPAT to allow for a more robust data set of pass rates using Maryland test-taker data. This plan will allow teacher preparation programs to better understand how to support teacher candidates and shift practices as appropriate while holding candidates harmless during the first required year of implementation. MSDE will review Maryland first-time pass rates at the end of the 2025-2026 assessment submission window, consult with the Technical Advisory Committee, and recommend passing scores to the SBOE for adoption.

The Maryland State Department of Education is implementing a phase-in approach to adopting passing scores on the edTPA and PPAT:

July 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026:

- Norming year
- Any scorable entry accepted as passing
- Teacher preparation programs will review institution-level data, in partnership with MSDE, and develop a plan to support current and future candidates to meet the publisher’s recommended passing score

By September 2026: The passing standard is determined and approved by the SBOE. MSDE’s Technical Advisory Committee will be consulted as part of the Maryland standard-setting process.

Annually: MSDE monitors pass rate data to determine if performance-based assessments have a negative impact on the diversity of teacher candidates who are eligible for licensure as required by Md. Code, Education Article §6-126(d)

Action

The MSDE is requesting the SBOE adopt a phase-in plan to set passing scores for the edTPA and PPAT to allow for a more robust data set of pass rates using Maryland test-taker data, which will allow teacher preparation programs to better understand how to support teacher candidates and shift practices as appropriate while holding candidates harmless.