

**RESPONDENT 1**  
**1/10/2020 12:41:50**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

The coursework/supporter offered from the school of education, in addition to the advisors was subpar to say the least. That being said, the methodology and implementation behind edTPA and it's requirements were confusing. It was clear that very little instruction was given to those who were tasked with advising us towards achieving a reasonable score under the edTPA guidelines.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

Student teaching was already stressful enough, with learning how to integrate your life in a classroom, as well as trying to be considered as an actual teacher. From my experience I found edTPA to add an unnecessary stress to my life and I found it troublesome to rationalize and conform to the standards that the outline set for each task. One of the requirements was to have a student who was ELL, and I had that in my classroom. For other student teachers this was not the case. It felt like a new form of confinement to adhere to the strict standard of edTPA to get a worthy score in order to be deemed fit to teach in CT. Although I will admit that my motivation was quite low, as my cohort was only expected to hand it in - not to pass. Therefore I cannot fully imagine the stress that incoming teacher candidates have to endure now, knowing that it counts this time.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

My students were mostly unaware of edTPA. All they knew was that they were going to be filmed. I made sure to fabricate my lesson so that it would fit into the standards and tasks that edTPA set. But I'm sure that they noticed my new stress that came along with it. Finding someone to video tape me with my iPhone was another weight added, because I don't own a camera for the specific function of filming. iPhones don't pick up on everything, so there was dialogue that was missed during the taping.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

Didn't like it at all and I felt that during the filming I wasn't myself. I was trying too hard to change my language and to force a "meaningful" dialogue between me and my students. So that it could be measured and graded.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

During the process of filling out edTPA I realized how fortunate I was to have the means to pay for it. \$300 is steep for the click of a submit button. It felt unnecessary and I know people that struggled to even pay for that.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

It sucks

**RESPONDENT 2**  
**1/10/2020 12:55:09**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

Although they tried their best to help with the completion of edTPA, most, if not all, of my school advisors were unequipped to do so. They were often confused about the process themselves, or lacked clarity and expertise. There were many unanswered questions, which I do not blame them for, rather the inaccessibility of the edTPA guidelines.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

Frankly, edTPA brought unnecessary stress into the already very stressful experience of first-time student teaching. Much of my prep and instruction time became geared towards completing edTPA, which made teaching and focusing on my craft feel inauthentic.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

Video-taping definitely made many of students nervous. Many were extremely camera shy and self-conscious, which impacted how they would participate. Some of my most vocal students became silent once they knew I was filming that day. On the other hand, some students craved camera time, and would become disruptive in order to get it.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

edTPA was a huge source of stress and anxiety. For many of us, that year was the first time we were responsible for what essentially was a full-time job--planning lessons, executing them, marking, managing behavior, differentiating, meeting state and school standards/requirements, etc. It was incredibly overwhelming as is. The lack of clarity which came from edTPA certainly exacerbated problems. Many of its questions felt redundant and repetitive, very much like busy work. It also felt non-sensible to be expected to gather such data about our teaching when we were at our career's infancy.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

As a student that comes from a struggling family, the financial considerations of edTPA absolutely added to my anxieties. Although some might not blink at the cost of submitting the project, it did serve as a financial strain for me. There were virtually no support/aid systems in place--the only one my school offered was raising my loan amount, which quite frankly, does not help. For my cohort, the edTPA score does not even actually count, which added insult to injury in many ways. Finding the technology to film and edit these excerpts are also financial considerations that I feel edTPA does not take into account.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

edTPA is a wholly ineffective measure of my teaching in too many ways to count. In-person evaluation from supervisors, continual feedback, in-depth conversation and reflection--these are authentic means of measuring my teaching and growth. The instructions were unclear and inaccessible. Little support was given. Too many questions felt repetitive. The project does not consider financial limitations, nor does it consider the intricacies of student teaching at very unique placements. A project such as edTPA makes sense for a more senior teacher to complete if they were applying to get an additional degree; it makes little sense for a beginning teacher who is still training and getting his/her bearings.

**RESPONDENT 3**  
**1/10/2020 13:10:27**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

Waste of time.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

It did not affect my lesson planning at all. This was not supported by my cooperating teacher in any way. He also regarded this exercise as a waste of time.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

The students liked to mess around in front of the camera. Other than that I see no impact outside of the expected objectives of the lessons.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

For me edtpa took away from valuable class time that could have been spent more effectively on gaining a better understanding of the experiences we were having in our student teaching placements. I really resented that.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

Yeah I mean it costed money which I did not have. I had to pick up some weekend shifts at the masonry company that I work at in the summers. Again just taking away from time that could have been spent more effectively elsewhere.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

I really just found it to be a waste of time.

**RESPONDENT 4**  
**1/10/2020 13:16:28**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

I received some support from my school in completing edTPA. Task 4 of EdTPA was assigned to us a year before completing tasks 1-3, so the process of completing the tasks were broken up which was easier on work load as we only had to complete tasks 1-3 senior year. However, I do wish there were more opportunities to complete edTPA work. We were only given one workshop on one day to come in and work on edTPA at school where professors were also there to help us with any questions. I wish there was more scheduled time to work on edTPA as it was hard to balance teaching full time, completing the edTPA tasks, and do other work for classes.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

It was hard completing edTPA as I worked within an inner city school where my teaching methods reflected the culture and needs of my students. However, what was asked of me from edTPA did not comply with the teaching style my students needed. My students were fully aware of the video recording and lessons I had to do for edTPA, but I felt as though my students had to act scripted (and myself act scripted) in order to meet all requirements of edTPA. How my students learned and received lessons was not compliant with how edTPA wanted me to teach and deliver lessons.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

My students were in a classroom that was student-driven and they had much autonomy over how they wanted to learn within the classroom. All lessons were student-driven, discussion based, and very hands-on. Usually when I was teaching my students, I would only talk at the front of the classroom for 2-5 minutes max, and then my students dove right into the lesson as I walked around to groups of students and helped them with the activity. My students learned best with hands-on materials and through exploration. Thus, when it was time to record my lessons for edTPA my students and myself had to act differently due to the requirements I had to meet for edTPA. They were fully aware that for those video recorded lessons they had to help me meet my requirements, but it wasn't authentic and just simply wasn't how my students choose to learn and how we normally learn within the classroom.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

Stress. It was time-consuming and very stressful. Between classes and having to teach full time with a full load of lesson planning, it was very hard to find time to complete tasks 1-3 for edTPA while also being formally observed and working part time, as student teaching did not provide any income, and I had bills to pay. It was a very stressful semester and I was not able to take care of myself physically and mentally as my main focus was completing edTPA while teaching 6 different classes and lesson planning for each of those classes differentiated instructed and instruction for ELL students who made up 44% of my students.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

edTPA was extremely expensive. \$300 to apply for. Because I had to full time teach, I was unable to work many hours at my part time job which led me to be in a somewhat financial crisis as I had to pay for gas, apartment rent, groceries, and school supplies for my students (as I was placed in a title 9 school and resources and school supplies were next to nothing). I believe that it is ridiculous that teachers (who already do not receive enough salary as it is) should not have to pay \$300 for edTPA when we already have to pay hundreds for Praxis tests and foundations of reading tests as well as use our own money to provide supplies within our classrooms when we are full time teaching and not being paid for any of it.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

edTPA is a ridiculous way to judge a teacher. There simply cannot be one set standards that every teacher must meet when teaching lessons. That is assuming that all classrooms and all groups of students learn the same way and can meet the same teaching standards edTPA requires, which is just simply not the case.

**RESPONDENT 5**  
**1/10/2020 13:16:34**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

We were offered support in our seminar class. Here, we were supposed to discuss our experiences during student-teaching, but it felt like the class was completely taken over by discussions about edTPA formatting and other edTPA issues. Additionally, the instructors were not very familiar with edTPA, so I did not feel confident in the help I was getting.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

edTPA essentially took over important time I could have been planning lessons. Due to the tedious nature of the edTPA assignments, I felt like it really took away from my student-teaching experience.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

I think it was a real distraction to my students. They were very distracted by the filming, and I felt like they were not truly benefitting from the lessons because they were so distracted.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

I think it added copious amounts of unnecessary stress. I felt like it really negatively impacted my mental health during my student-teaching experience.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

It was very expensive as a stand-alone test, but also in addition to all the other testing we had to pay for (Praxis, Foundations of Reading, etc.).

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

I think the cost needs to be lowered, and the test needs to be revised. The writing portions are so unnecessarily long and repetitive. I did not find myself gaining anything from writing them. I found myself reading the samples and understanding the necessary language and discussion points to add to my own writing. However, it did not make me truly reflect on my teaching or try to improve my teaching. It was just a tedious, unnecessary stressor that did not help my student-teaching experience in any way.



**RESPONDENT 6**  
**1/10/2020 13:41:20**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.). [School of Education] was very supportive through the whole edTPA process. I felt like previous assignments we had completed were similar to the process (planning, implementation, assessment, reflection). I felt well prepared for it.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

I think edTPA benefited my overall student teaching experience. I lucked out with identifying a student to work with - this process can be difficult with permission slips and scheduling within the school. For me, edTPA really just made me film myself and analyze/reflect more specifically than I would have.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

I used the same lessons for edTPA for the student that I would have without doing edTPA.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

The project as a whole took a lot of time and effort. However, I think it benefited my learning. Also, I don't think the time/resources spent doing the project is different from what you do everyday in the classroom - plan, implement, asses, reflect, and repeat. Filming was difficult but I had supports to help make it work.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

The cost of edTPA is just another cost that was added to the list of teacher preparation fees. I don't understand why it was that much money.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

**RESPONDENT 7**  
**1/10/2020 14:19:30**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

I loved the support advisor I had for edTPA, however, she had no idea what she was doing. Mainly because edTPA is so new and she just didn't have the knowledge of the exam to help us. Sometimes we would ask a question and it would take a week to get an answer because there is just so much within the edTPA assessment. Our faculty advisor also knew nothing of edTPA and was unable to offer support other than telling us what would be required for the assessment. Just like the students, it sounded like the staff wanted nothing to do with edTPA, mainly because it's not even teachers who grade this assessment, but Pearson, a for profit company.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

edTPA hindered my student teaching experience and did not contribute to my success as a teacher. Being in [School of Education], I have been trained extensively in proper lesson planning and then all of a sudden edTPA is implemented and I have to follow this totally new lesson planning format and having to create lesson objectives that catered to the edTPA format, which were rather low-level objectives compared to the high-level ones I had been used to at [School of Education]. My job during student teaching was to give students my 100% and this could not be done while having to fill in the nitty gritty details required by edTPA.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

The lesson I created for edTPA was one I was going to use regardless of whether edTPA was there or not. I was praised by my cooperating teachers for the lesson design and implementation, but the scorers for edTPA (who are not teachers) thought otherwise.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

I loved student teaching and it was some of the hardest work I've ever done in my life. I would spend hours after school and stay up very late lesson planning to ensure that I was giving it my all because I not only wanted to better myself as a teacher, but make sure my students were receiving a quality education. edTPA was a waste of quality time I could have spent designing better lessons for my students or worrying about my own mental health. I spend hours and hours working on edTPA. Looking at the exemplar the edTPA website provided was so unnatural. I had been trained by [School of Education] to properly teach and all of a sudden I was being forced to change my style to comply with a national company that robbed my of \$300.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

Everybody says how they want the best teachers for our schools in Connecticut, but it sounds like they just want the richest teachers. Hundreds of dollars spent on fingerprinting. Hundreds

of dollars spent on gas to get to and from our school placement. And then on top of that \$300 to submit an assessment? Where is that money going to? It's not going to education, but to a private company who makes even more money when teacher candidates mess up their application because then they have to resubmit their assessment with another \$100. Not only monetary costs, but the hours wasted away doing this assessment. edTPA did not make me a better teacher, but reassured the fact that I will never conform to their style.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

**RESPONDENT 8**  
**1/10/2020 17:54:57**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

It was very difficult to complete edTPA while student teaching. Professors and advisors did not seem to understand the tasks well enough to walk us through them. It took time and attention away from other, arguably more important, responsibilities such as lesson planning and reflection. Also, it added yet another financial barrier to becoming an educator.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

Extremely frustrating. My cooperating teacher didn't understand why I had to complete this and I couldn't justify it to her because it didn't make sense to me either. The tasks require you to spell out all of the things you should already be doing while student teaching in tedious, time consuming ways. This did not make me a better, more prepared educator. It shifted my focus away from my students and towards mindless, busy work. I had to change lesson plans just to fit in with edTPA and I believe that negatively impacted the effectiveness of my instruction.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

The lessons I had to teach for edTPA were not useful or creative, they simply met the standards. I couldn't digress based on student needs or interests because of the things I needed to cover according to the edTPA tasks. Picking focal students took my attention away from whole class learning. The goal seemed to switched from teaching a quality lesson to checking off edTPA boxes, which was very disheartening as a student teacher.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

As stated, I could not give my all to student teaching because of the burden edTPA placed on me. I was constantly stressed about completely everything and spent excessive time just trying to understand what was being asked of me. The tasks were confusing and required so much effort to dissect that by the time you understood how to answer, you had taught the lessons so long ago it was hard to genuinely reflect.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

I was very stressed about the cost of edTPA. I knew I also needed to take the praxis, foundations of reading, and multiple mtels in the coming months, which also all have significant costs tied to them. Not to mention all the money I spent on fingerprinting during my time in [School of Education]. The costs to become a teacher are huge.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

I don't believe edTPA gives students the opportunity demonstrate the types of teachers they really are. It seems to be testing how well you follow strictly set guidelines. It's all fake and arbitrary, anyway. Teaching isn't about following a rubric, it's about being flexible and curious and willing to do anything to support the students in your classroom. That has to happen in authentic ways. EdTPA is an inauthentic way of evaluating teacher prep candidates.

**RESPONDENT 9**  
**1/11/2020 9:52:58**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).  
edTPA was incorporated into my coursework, mainly focused on in one class each semester of my senior year. The professors and advisors were helpful and supportive regarding edTPA and its requirements as my program held various edTPA workshops to help set the teacher candidates up for success.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

I was fortunate enough to have a very supportive cooperating teacher during my full-time student teaching placement. Completing edTPA in my placement was welcomed and flowed with the daily life of teaching. However, I understand that this was not the case for many of my friends in my cohort. Even in my own placement, it was extremely clear that most veteran teachers in the field (>5 years experience) have no idea what edTPA is nor its requirements. Therefore, if you don't have an understanding and supportive cooperating teacher it can make completing edTPA stressful on top of coursework and the demands of student teaching.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

My edTPA lesson segment flowed with the natural progression of this particular group of students morning reading small group intervention. For the students there was no obvious impact other than them being aware that I was video-taping the lessons.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

edTPA is a big project, I spent countless hours planning, writing, analyzing, and affecting my edTPA. It definitely affected my stress levels because I obsessed on getting a passing score for not only the state of Connecticut but also any of the potential states I might teach in in the future. At times, it feels like edTPA will never end, but once it's over you feel very accomplished. I believe that if you have a supportive student teaching placement, knowledgeable advisors in your program, and don't procrastinate edTPA, then it really isn't too strenuous.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

The \$350 fee of edTPA definitely put a financial burden on me. Due to my coursework and student teaching, I was unable to work enough hours to afford it. I ended up making ends meet, but it was stressful. Especially, because there are other fees associated with my teacher preparation program such as paying for books, professional clothing, commuting to and from my internships, and my state licensure exams (Foundations of Reading and PRAXIS).

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

I feel that if edTPA is required to be a teacher in the state you reside in, then the fee should be waved. It is costly especially, as the state is only still rolling it out.

**RESPONDENT 10**  
**1/11/2020 12:54:18**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

I received great support from my cooperating teacher in terms of filming and planning my lessons but my teachers and advisors didn't really know how to support us through it. Spent most of explanation or prep time watching YouTube videos to find advice or reading the edTPA hand book. Was even given bad advice for the math section and the entire elementary cohort had to redo it before handing in edTPA because the way our teacher told us to do it was incorrect.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

Caused a lot of distraction during student teaching time. Seminar, which is supposed to be our time to plan and support student teaching was only ever about edTPA. We did nothing but discuss how to get the best score possible. Also took away from in class instruction time. There were experimental things I wanted to try with my students that we did end up doing but had to be pushed to accommodate what would be seen as a promising edTPA lesson. Clinic teachers also took a lot of time out of their planning and our prep time to review edTPA with us and help us with the confusion and expectation of it anyway they could. It took away more than it contributed to my classroom.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

My students didn't really know that what I was doing was for edTPA. I didn't tell them and we just went in with class as normal except now there was a camera. They enjoyed being filmed and enjoyed seeing how they worked in groups. One thing about the edTPA set us was that it wasn't always conducive for my emergent bilingual students. I had to scaffold their lessons different than I usually would to fit the edTPA lesson format and expectations and it didn't work for them. I had to change my scaffolds back to the normal classroom routines and just fudge what I did for an edTPA score because then learning was more important to me than meeting the edTPA expectations.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

Student teaching didn't stress me out edTPA did. It was repetitive and didn't contribute to my classroom. It took time away from me being present with my students and I eventually had to set it aside because it meant more for me to be a better teacher rather than being a good standardized test taker. I also saw the huge impact it had on my peers. We had student teachers in tears during seminar from the stress and their kids not reacting well to the implementation of edTPA.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).



I've been struggling with money to pay for college despite having scholarships. I have always worked as a way to subsidize my costs of school. Unfortunately the hours required for student teaching didn't allow me to work for spring semester of college. I had saved enough to pay my bills, college, car, gas and food but really struggled in order to pay for edTPA. I was lucky that my parents were able to help me but it felt as though I payed \$300 for a standardized test that didn't really evaluate who I was as a teacher but evaluated a staged production.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

There are a lot of us who sacrifice a lot of financial stability because we love and believe in this profession. We speak a lot about how standardized tests don't really show the competence and truth of someone's ability but rather provide financial gains for certain institutions. If edTPA is truly about the capability of the educator and what is best for the student then it should be a free.

**RESPONDENT 11**  
**1/12/2020 14:38:27**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

The process of completing edTPA was incredibly confusing and stress inducing, especially during our student teaching semester, which was overwhelming in and of itself. It did not seem that there was anyone for us to turn to during this process, as our advisor was virtually unreachable during this semester. If it were possible for us to receive support or advice prior to our completion of edTPA, that would have been super helpful. Essentially we went in blind to the entire process, and as a result it was a horrible experience that I would not wish on anyone else.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

Implementing edTPA in my student teaching placement added additional stress where absolutely none was needed. I did not receive support from my cooperating teacher, and I felt that completing edTPA distracted from my actual instruction/ completion of student teaching requirements. I used my prep time to lesson plan, so I was left to work on edTPA after getting out of work in the evening.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

Because I did not want edTPA to distract from my student's learning, I had my phone propped up in the corner of the room on the days that I was filming. As a result of this, and the fact that I did not have someone in the room actually filming me, the quality of the videos was low. This added to my stress, because by the time that I reviewed the videos, there was no way for them to be re-filmed. The lessons that I implemented did not differ from those that I would have typically done, but they did differ from those that were expected by the woman that conducted my observations. She was observing one of the days that I filmed, and this added to the anxiety inducing nature of the project.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

EdTPA dramatically impacted my mental and physical health while student teaching. In addition to completing edTPA, I was writing my honors thesis, and working 20 hours a week. I did not enjoy a full nights sleep for the entire time I was student teaching, and I felt that there was little time left in my day to do anything just for the sake of enjoyment. I think I would have felt significantly more fulfilled in my student teaching placement, had I not been burdened with the bureaucracy of edTPA.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

The amount of money that I threw directly into the garbage as a result of being a [School of Education] student was astounding. The fact that edTPA was not actually a requirement for us and still cost us \$400 is absolutely baffling to me. I spent at least \$30 on gas every week driving

to student teaching, spent another \$200 on the Praxis and who knows how much on Taskstream. AND unless you are willing to sacrifice your mental and physical health, student teaching makes it nearly impossible to work enough hours to support yourself!

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.  
just end it all

**RESPONDENT 12**  
**1/12/2020 16:06:05**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

I think we were offered a lot of support for edTPA. Our professors tried to help us as much as they could and help us plan out deadlines for ourselves to stay on track. That being said, they really weren't allowed to help us with our writing and completion of it, so we did have to do a lot independently.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

I think edTPA took up a lot of my time from planning other lessons and put a lot of pressure on a certain chunk of lessons. My cooperating teacher offered to help in any way she could (suggesting a student to work with, videotaping lessons, etc.) however she had no experience with the program because it is so new.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc.).

At first the video-taping was a little distracting and made one student in my group nervous because he thought he was being video-taped. We had to explain to him that she was video-taping my teaching and not him. The district I was in also has a strict no taping policy so I was not able to show my focus learner's face in the video.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

edTPA was very stressful for me personally. Student teaching in and of itself is a very stressful time period and I was already feeling a little overwhelmed taking over all of the groups that my teacher worked with. My cooperating teacher had a relatively large caseload (18 students) so I had very limited prep time to begin with. Planning the lessons and video taping was alright, but the pages of reflections took up a lot of my time.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

\$300 is more expensive than any of the other tests required for teachers. We also had to spend \$300 for the taskstream ID to submit it. In my opinion, this is an extravagant cost for something we are obligated to do. We spend that whole semester student teaching which limits your ability to work, so many people struggled to come up with the money. I am aware of the fee waiver, but I had enough money to pay for it so I don't think it would have been approved. However, I do think it's ridiculous that I had to spend \$600 which is comparable to a rent payment solely to submit one portfolio.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

Overall, I think edTPA could be implemented much more efficiently. Personally, there were so many evaluations and observations done throughout my student teaching that I feel I gained

much more from than from writing up my own self reflections. The whole time student teaching you are forced to examine your practice and adapt since you are just starting out and constantly learning new strategies. I was constantly self-reflecting without the edTPA reflection prompts, and I was constantly conferring with my cooperating teacher and supervisor to gain advice. They were also frequently evaluating my lessons which was very helpful. I do not think that watching me teach for 20 minutes will help someone determine if I am or am not a good teacher. And the pages of reflections necessary to complete this just involved me repeating myself over and over. I do not feel that I gained any knowledge from the experience and overall working on that took away from the time that I could have been putting in to planning my lessons for my students.

If this is to remain in place (which I do not think it needs to) I would recommend some major changes to make it more practical. The number of questions on each section needs to be decreased. Many of them were repetitive and did not seem necessary. I think submitting our lessons and materials make sense, but the pages of reflections going along with it were simply time-consuming and not beneficial. For example, questions regarding the supports given could have been condensed to one question in the planning commentary, and I think I could have answered it more efficiently using bullet points. Not to mention that many of the instruction commentary questions required me to repeat my plans and supports that I already stated in the planning commentary. The videos involved in that portion were also very hard to edit and it was very time-consuming for me to decide what to cut out from my 90 minutes of lessons. It was also very time-consuming to go back and look for each example of "rapport" or "engagement" in the clips. The assessment commentary to me was the most practical, and least repetitive.

Second of all, I think the price needs to be drastically decreased for the reasons stated above. I work a minimum wage job at school and at home, so that took me approximately 60 hours of work to pay for it.

Lastly, I think that the deadline should extend into the summer so candidates can finish their reflections after their student teaching is completed. I am aware that that was the case for my year but heard that that is no longer the case for students completing it this year. I am not entirely certain I would have been able to complete everything on time had I not had that extra time.

**RESPONDENT 13**  
**1/12/2020 17:36:37**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

When I was first introduced to edTPA, I was both intimidated and confused. I had already been stressing out due to the upcoming semester for student teaching, and learning that I had to also implement this project while doing my student teaching made me much more stressed out.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

I was very stressed out with the implementation of edTPA. I had a lot of support, but I was very nervous about everything not going exactly as planned.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

The impact of video-taping in my placement particularly caused an extra layer of anxiety for me because I was worried about doing everything I needed to do in order to meet the requirements for what edTPA expected to see on the videos. Also, I was constantly worried about the video camera turning off, which had happened a few times, so I would always keep checking to make sure it didn't.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

The impact that edTPA had on the anxiety I endure was quite large. In addition to planning for other classes, I was extremely stressed about edTPA. I was continuously worried if my lessons weren't good enough, and I had a lot of uncertainty about whether or not I was completing the requirements up to edTPA's expectations.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

As a stand-alone assessment, I still don't understand why the amount of money that was needed to submit my work was necessary. To my knowledge, my score for edTPA does not affect my future employment, which makes the cost of submission even more baffling. Within the context of the multiple other costs that have been required in my pursuit of becoming a teacher, it definitely added another financial dent to my family. I was fortunate that my parents offered to pay the cost of edTPA, but they also were very upset and confused as to why the cost was so high.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

**RESPONDENT 14**  
**1/12/2020 19:52:15**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.). edTPA was not highly beneficial to my student teaching experience. The portfolio and project seems to have good intentions, but it wasn't always feasible to get it all done. It took away a lot of the time that I needed to be spending on other parts of my student teaching experience. This is especially true as an elementary education major; my edTPA only focused briefly on math and then mostly on writing, when I am busy teaching all subjects in the classroom. It was hard to focus on all of the subjects that I needed to teach when the majority of my time was being taken up by planning and reflecting solely writing instruction just for edTPA. Thankfully, I did receive great support from the seminar leader that I had at [School of Education] in how to navigate some of the trickier parts of edTPA (academic language, time management, etc.) but this was not universal for everyone in my program.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.). edTPA did negatively affect my student teaching experience. It was out of place and did not allow me to really show who I am as a teacher. It did not fit in well with the school's curriculum so I had to take time out of what the students actually needed to do to implement this brief unit for edTPA. It was not natural.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc). The impact of edTPA was not significant other than the fact it didn't fit in with the curriculum in place of the school at the time. I needed to complete edTPA at a very specific point in my student teaching and the students were working on a cross-subject project based learning unit in which edTPA would not work with for writing or reading. It negatively impacted my students because it took away time from what they really needed to be doing, even though the brief lessons that I taught were still helpful in their learning. The video taping was fine in my classroom because it's done frequently by teachers and professionals in the school but I could see how it would be a problem if my students were not used to it.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.). edTPA put a lot of stress on me during student teaching which is already a stressful time in itself. I dedicated countless hours to edTPA and still feel like I did not gain much from it at all. I do not think it proved anything that I can do as a teacher and felt really inauthentic. I could've used the time that I spent on edTPA learning more ways to manage a classroom, plan efficiently, and get to know my students better. I do not think edTPA was useful and it caused a great deal of stress in my life.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

The costs for edTPA are outrageous. As a student from a single-parent home, attending an out-of-state university and paying for my entire education alone, I currently have over \$80,000 in student loan debt. Paying for edTPA was not helpful in this, and I had to take out more loans to be able to afford it. There are already a lot of costs that students have to pay, let alone preservice teachers, and the cost for this test that proved to negatively impact my teaching experience was not fair.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

I understand the good intentions of completing a portfolio like edTPA, but there needs to be much more consideration. Not everyone has a camera to film with, editing software on their computer, funding to pay for a \$300 test, or even a classroom that works well with this type of portfolio. This system needs to be reworked and altered entirely to actually have the best interests of preservice teachers and the students who had to be affected by this in mind.



**RESPONDENT 15**  
**1/12/2020 20:32:58**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).

In my experience, edTPA was not well supported. We had a seminar class once a week, that was supposed to help support the process, but we barely discussed or worked on edTPA during this time. I liked the workshop that [School of Education] held that one time, which provided us time and a space to simply just work. I wish more of these opportunities were provided.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

Honestly, a huge portion of edTPA was completed outside/after student teaching. The school I was at provided me with a camera to film my lessons, but that was the full extent of the support. I think edTPA was a useful experience, and it definitely demonstrates good teaching skills. In that way, I felt it benefitted me throughout my student teaching and reaffirmed to me, with my score of it, that I have what it takes to be a teacher.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc.).

The students mostly were distracted by my filming, and wanted to be silly in front of the camera. Other than that, there was little impact.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e. the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

edTPA was definitely stressful! The time management aspect of edTPA was what caused most of this stress. Finding time to physically sit down and complete the long write up was almost impossible, on top of the regular lesson planning I had to do. A good chunk of the writing was completed during finals week to combat this.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

The \$300 cost was insane. That seemed way too high, especially for an assessment that did not even count toward our certification.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

**RESPONDENT 16**  
**1/13/2020 1:21:02**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).  
Felt completely lost and received little guidance.
2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).  
Due to the stress and time involved with edTPA, my teaching experience was negatively impacted. Rather than developing meaningful lessons for students, I spent the majority of my time trying to understand edTPA, plan for edTPA, and complete edTPA.
3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).  
Due to the extensive time and effort involved in edTPA, I felt that I was unable to serve my students to the best of my ability. Time that I could have spent developing lessons, providing feedback, and working one-on-one with students was devoted, instead, to edTPA.
4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).  
While completing edTPA, I experienced mental breakdowns weekly, and contemplated leaving the teaching profession.
5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).  
As a student living in poverty, managing to save the funds for edTPA was extremely stressful and difficult.
6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

**RESPONDENT 17**  
**1/13/2020 18:51:41**

1. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA (i.e. in your coursework, support offered from your school of education or by advisors, etc.).  
edTPA did not connect well with my coursework and the quality of preparation I have received towards becoming an educator. The quality of my coursework and the support I have received from my school of education far surpassed the quality of what was offered by edTPA. While I was supported by my school of education and the faculty/advisors in such, the asinine length of the assessment, reductionist tendencies of language, and requirement of over-analyzing our teaching made it difficult for anyone to receive the support that they needed. Our professors did their best, but this assessment is a poor metric to hold them to.

2. Please describe your experiences with the implementation edTPA in your student teaching placement (i.e. how completing edTPA affected your overall student teaching experience, how edTPA influenced your usage of prep and instruction time, support offered by your cooperating teacher, etc.).

My student teaching experience was negatively affected by edTPA. Being required to complete edTPA during my student teaching experience was immensely burdensome, took away from the time that I could have used to lesson-plan, review my teaching with my cooperating teacher (who actually knew me and observed my growth over the semester), conference with students, or research innovative practices to implement in my classroom to continue to best support all of my students. My cooperating teacher was incredibly unfamiliar with edTPA and could not offer me much support in the areas that I needed help--most pressing the need for technical capacities to complete this requirement. While my cooperating teacher is a veteran, highly-qualified teacher, they were unfamiliar with the disconnected language of edTPA.

3. Please describe the impact the impact edTPA had on the students in your classroom (i.e. the types of edTPA lessons you developed and implemented, the impact edTPA had on your focal students, the impact of video-taping in your placement, etc).

Overall, I felt like edTPA negatively affected the students in my classes. The energy that I was required to give to edTPA could have been much better used receiving immediate feedback, researching new practices, or even practicing self-care (something that is imperative for ALL educators to practice but is immensely difficult for student teachers to do so with the requirements of an unpaid, full-time job--and the added stress of a mandated performance test). The standardized requirements of edTPA negated and minimized the diversity of learners in my classes and distilled teaching into what felt like something full aligned with the banking model of education (the exact opposite of what I wanted to do in my classroom). I loved every minute of student teaching, but being required to complete edTPA took away from my experience and negatively affected the teacher that I was becoming--which harmed my students.

4. Please describe how edTPA affected you personally (i.e the time you spent inside and outside of your placement completing edTPA, any impact edTPA had on your mental health/stress levels during your student teaching placement, etc.).

edTPA absolutely increased my stress during student teaching and negatively impacted my mental health during student teaching. I wanted to walk into student teaching excited and eager to learn from and with my students--and I did so, but with edTPA looming over me. Completing edTPA eroded away at the little free time that I had, contributed to many nights of little sleep, and placed me under an unhealthy amount of prolonged stress. This all negatively affected my ability to show up fully for my students, and there were days that the stress of edTPA prevented me from being the teacher that I would have been without it.

5. Please describe the impact of the costs associated with edTPA on you and your preparation to become an educator (both as a stand-alone assessment and within the context of the entirety of your teacher preparation program).

The financial implications of edTPA, especially with consideration to all of the other costs associated with becoming a teacher within the state of Connecticut, are prohibitive, exclusionary, and damaging. To require us to pay a substantial amount of money for yet another product that does nothing to support our development as teachers--within a semester where it becomes so much more difficult to work--is wildly unfair. The cost of edTPA negatively affected my student teaching experience.

6. Please provide any other thoughts you have around implementation, the costs associated with edTPA, or edTPA in general.

Being required to do it and then not receiving feedback until AFTER student teaching was like a slap in the face after all of the work and money that it required. We talk so much about timely feedback in our practice and how feedback that comes too late is useless--this is exactly what edTPA is: useless feedback. I have no issues with being held to a high standard of performance as a teacher prep candidate. In fact, I want to be held to the highest standard--because I know that I am going to be a teacher and that I have the responsibility of students' future in my hands. But the feedback that this assessment provides did nothing to support my development as a future educator and took away from my overall experience and my ability to show up as the best educator I could be for my students. Holding me to this "standard" is insulting to the academic background I have, the work that professors and mentors and professors have invested in my growth, and the work that I do to support the students that I serve.