

edTPA and Student Privacy: What you need to know

What is the edTPA?

The edTPA is a standardized assessment of teacher performance created by Stanford University and sold and administered by Pearson, the world's largest education company.

How could edTPA impact my child's privacy?

As part of an edTPA portfolio, a student teacher must submit one or two videos up to 35 minutes long of the student teacher interacting with his/her students in class.

Why is edTPA high-stakes?

As of September 2015, student teachers in IL must participate in the edTPA and receive a minimum score to become a licensed teacher.

Who has access to edTPA videos?

Initially, your child's student teacher, his/her university supervisor, Pearson and the temporary, off-site workers Pearson employs to score edTPA, all have access to the videos.

What happens to edTPA videos after they are scored?

It is not clear who retains copies and rights to the videos.

Are edTPA videos publicly available online?

Yes. many edTPA videos can be found on YouTube in violation of federal privacy law. This is against edTPA rules that say to keep videos private.

Are edTPA videos eventually destroyed?

Some consent forms say the IL State Board of Ed, the student teacher's university, Stanford University and Pearson may continue to use videos for "additional educational purposes." Pearson says they will destroy most videos after four years.

Will I be notified if my child's student teacher is filming an edTPA video?

Yes. You must be notified by the student teacher beforehand and sign a consent form.

Does a school or district's general media consent form cover edTPA videos?

No. A separate consent form is required.

Can I refuse to allow my child to participate in a video filmed for the edTPA?

Yes. You are *not* required to allow your child to be filmed.

Will refusing consent harm my child's student teacher?

The edTPA requires at least four students to appear in the videos. We don't know what happens if too few families grant consent. However, the student teacher experience is *already* being harmed by edTPA.

How does edTPA harm teacher education programs and public schools?

Student teachers will now be assessed in part by temporary, remote employees paid by Pearson to evaluate portfolios as piecemeal, rather than teacher-educator supervisors who know the student teacher and observe them over several months in many contexts in a setting they are familiar with. Allowing a for-profit company to provide a definitive judgement on whether a teacher-in-training should be certified undermines the education profession and jeopardizes the quality of the public school teaching workforce in Illinois.

What else can I do?

Share this factsheet with other parents. Notify your superintendent and school board if you are refusing to grant consent. Contact your state legislators (<http://bit.ly/ILelecteds>) and say videotaping students shouldn't be part of teacher certification. The IL General Assembly has the power to pass a law to force ISBE to change this policy if ISBE does not do so voluntarily.