



Preparation & Learning: Building a Strong Educator Workforce

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In today's educational landscape, the effective preparation of educators is more critical than ever. With challenges like teacher shortages and the evolving needs of student populations, it is essential that prospective educators are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in the classroom. At Evaluation Systems of Pearson, our mission is to support the development of a high-quality educator workforce through innovative and effective credentialing assessment programs.

A central facet of our organizational identity is listening to the emergent needs of state educator credentialing agencies and identifying patterns to proactively develop new solutions that meet these demands. We have highlighted—and will continue to prioritize—teacher supply challenges. Many state educator credentialing agencies are struggling to place qualified teachers in classrooms.

Recent state policy innovations, along with our product innovations at Evaluation Systems, are part of coordinated efforts to effectively meet these challenges.

As we travel the country engaging with educator credentialing agencies, educators, and other stakeholders, one recurring theme regarding educator supply challenges is the need for renewed attention to the role of assessment within the teaching and learning cycle. Assessment for educator credentialing is an integral element of the learning process for prospective educators. It should not be viewed in isolation, but rather as part of the larger preparation journey that future educators undertake to earn their credentials.

State educator credentialing agencies need teachers in classrooms; however, it is *well-prepared* teachers that are essential. Reducing standards to fill positions is not the goal; instead, the focus is on creating the necessary support and interventions for an *effectively-prepared* educator workforce.

While assessment of learning is critical, assessment as learning can, and should, also play a vital role in the preparation equation.

Evaluation Systems is committed to supporting the overall teaching and learning cycle by preparing the educator workforce through our preparation and learning product roadmap. Over the last year, we have developed and implemented our new Right Start™ educator learning courses, which enhance the support and intervention system currently available to prospective educators as they pursue state credentials.

We first developed and implemented Right Start™ educator learning courses in late 2023 as a new feature of our National Evaluation Series™ (the Series) educator credentialing assessment system, which includes assessments used across the country as part of state educator credentialing requirements. In 2024, we began offering Right Start™ for the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations™ (NYSTCE®) and the Ohio Assessments for Educators™ (OAE®), two of our many custom state educator credentialing assessment programs. We intend to expand Right Start™ courses to additional credentialing assessment programs in 2025 and beyond.

As part of our initiative to expand learning and preparation support for prospective educators, Evaluation Systems has recently announced a new partnership with Passage Preparation™, a leading provider of instructional courses designed to help educators successfully complete their credentialing assessments. Through this strategic partnership, Evaluation Systems will develop and deliver an enhanced range of Right Start™ courses tailored for prospective teachers, as well as educators seeking to expand their knowledge into new subjects.

The Right Start™ program offers a collection of instructional courses that help educators and educator candidates effectively apply what they know and can do within specific educator credentialing assessment areas.

Right Start™ courses are designed to be high-quality, affordable, self-paced, and competency-based instructional resources, each custom-built to align with the assessments required for each state's specific population of future educators.

Each Right Start™ course begins with a diagnostic assessment that is immediately scored, providing competency-based feedback and access to rationales for incorrectly answered items. Self-paced instruction is provided for each competency through a user-friendly, interactive, and multi-media Learning Management System platform, allowing for focused instruction on specific competencies to strengthen performance. Each course ends with a second assessment, aligned with the content specifications of an operational assessment, providing immediate results to help participants review their progress in targeted competencies. Through engagement with Right Start™ instructional courses, prospective educators can not only benefit from this valuable resource as they complete their assessment requirements, but also enrich their overall professional preparation as they become ready to enter the classroom.

At Evaluation Systems, we are committed to continuous improvement and innovation in educator preparation. We recognize that well-prepared educators play a crucial role in shaping the future of our students and communities. Together with our partners in education, we will continue to work tirelessly to create a robust support network for future teachers, so that they have the resources and guidance needed to succeed on their credentialing journey. We remain committed to upholding high standards in educator preparation, as we strive to equip educators with the skills they need to thrive in today's classrooms.

