

Dear Student Teaching Seminar instructors,

Based on a conference that she recently participated in, Beverly Falk would like to pass on to all of you some misunderstandings that people seem to have about the edTPA and her responses to these misconceptions. She is happy to try to help and/or try to get Nicole Merino from SCALE to weigh in on any other clarifications/confirmations you may need or any questions you need answered.

1. The learning experience in the video needs to be done with the whole class. Not so - it doesn't have to be the entire class; it can be done with a group representing the class.
2. Kids whose parents don't sign the permission have to be isolated from the video camera and instructed to be silent in the back of the room and do nothing. Not the case.
3. The cooperating teacher cannot be seen or heard in the video. Not so - the cooperating teacher can be involved; it is just that the candidate needs to be the lead.
4. Instructors are giving candidates assigned CCSS lessons to do for their learning segment even though these have nothing to do with what is going on in the classroom. Rather - candidates should develop their learning segment with involvement/approval of cooperating teacher to fit into what is going on in the classroom.
5. Instructors cannot give any support to candidates. Not so - instructors can ask questions, specifically referring candidates to prompts and rubrics; they just shouldn't tell them what to say or edit the writing.