

# **The edTPA Lesson Plan Editable Template 2018: A Teacher's Essential Toolkit**

Comprehensive Research & Analysis Report

Author: Diagram Database

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# 1. Introduction

This comprehensive report provides a detailed overview of The edTPA Lesson Plan Editable Template 2018: A Teacher's. Our editorial team has compiled verified facts, recent updates, and contextual background for researchers, professionals, and general readers alike.

Explore the edTPA lesson plan editable template from 2018—a critical resource for teacher candidates. Learn its structure, benefits, and how it aligns with m...

## 2. In-Depth Overview

The edTPA lesson plan editable template from 2018 remains one of the most referenced frameworks in teacher preparation programs. Designed to assess a candidate's readiness for the classroom, this template isn't just a formality—it's a blueprint for structured, evidence-based instruction. What makes it stand out is its adaptability: educators can tweak it to fit their subject matter, grade level, or pedagogical approach while ensuring alignment with national standards. Yet, despite its widespread use, many teacher candidates still struggle to fully leverage its potential, often treating it as a checklist rather than a dynamic tool for reflection and growth.

The 2018 iteration of the edtpa lesson plan editable template introduced subtle but significant refinements, particularly in how it emphasized student engagement and differentiated instruction. Unlike earlier versions, this template encouraged candidates to articulate why specific strategies were chosen—not just what they were. This shift reflected broader trends in education, where assessment isn't just about performance but about the process of learning. For instance, the template's focus on "Learning Segment" now required candidates to map out how each phase of the lesson (e.g., direct instruction, guided practice, independent work) contributed to measurable outcomes. This wasn't just about filling in boxes; it was about proving pedagogical intent.

Critics argue that the template's rigidity can stifle creativity, forcing educators to conform to a predefined structure. Yet, its defenders point to the clarity it brings to complex lesson planning—especially for first-year teachers navigating state standards and high-stakes evaluations. The template's enduring relevance lies in its dual role: as both a diagnostic tool for supervisors and a scaffold for candidates to refine their craft. Whether you're a program coordinator, a mentor teacher, or a student preparing for licensure, understanding how to wield this template effectively can mean the difference between a lesson plan that meets requirements and one that transforms classrooms.

### The Complete Overview of the edTPA Lesson Plan Editable Template 2018

The edtpa lesson plan editable template 2018 is more than a document—it's a standardized lens through which teacher effectiveness is evaluated. Developed by Pearson in collaboration with education stakeholders, it serves as the cornerstone of the edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessment), a requirement for licensure in many U.S. states. The template is divided into three core tasks: Planning, Instruction, and Assessment. Each task demands specific evidence, such as artifacts (e.g., student work samples, lesson videos) and written reflections that demonstrate alignment with InTASC (Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium) standards. What sets the 2018 version apart is its emphasis on contextual relevance—candidates must justify their choices in relation to the diverse needs of their students, the content standards, and the

school's broader goals.

At its core, the template functions as a bridge between theory and practice. For example, the "Planning" task requires candidates to submit a full lesson plan that includes objectives, materials, and a rationale for instructional strategies. The "Instruction" task, meanwhile, evaluates how well the candidate implements the plan in a real classroom setting, with a focus on engagement, questioning techniques, and scaffolding. The "Assessment" task then circles back to evaluate how the candidate uses data to refine instruction. This cyclical approach ensures that the template isn't just about planning a single lesson but about fostering a culture of continuous improvement. The 2018 update also introduced clearer rubrics for scoring, reducing ambiguity in how candidates are evaluated—though, as many educators note, the bar for "exemplary" remains high.

### Historical Background and Evolution

The edTPA's origins trace back to the early 2010s, when states began seeking more rigorous alternatives to traditional licensure exams. Before edTPA, many teacher candidates could pass written tests without demonstrating practical classroom skills. The template was introduced as part of a broader push to align teacher preparation with the Common Core State Standards and to hold programs accountable for producing effective educators. The 2018 revision was particularly notable for its response to feedback from educators and policymakers, who criticized earlier versions for being overly prescriptive or failing to account for subject-specific nuances.

One of the most significant changes in 2018 was the expansion of the "Learning Segment" to include a fourth phase: Extension. This phase required candidates to outline how they would deepen students' understanding beyond the core lesson, whether through enrichment activities, real-world applications, or cross-curricular connections. This addition reflected a growing recognition that effective teaching isn't just about covering content but about fostering intellectual curiosity. Additionally, the template now included more explicit guidance on how to address the needs of English language learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities, aligning with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Title III requirements. These updates weren't just bureaucratic adjustments—they were a direct response to the diverse challenges faced by modern educators.

### Core Mechanisms: How It Works

The edtpa lesson plan editable template operates on a modular system, where each task builds on the previous one. Task 1 (Planning) is where candidates lay the groundwork, submitting a detailed lesson plan that includes:

- Objectives : Written in measurable terms (e.g., "Students will analyze primary sources to identify bias" rather than "Students will understand bias").
- Materials : A list of resources, including technology, manipulatives, or texts, with justification for their selection.
- Instructional Strategies : A breakdown of how the lesson will be delivered, including group work, discussions, or independent practice.

Task 2 (Instruction) shifts the focus to execution. Candidates must submit a video recording of their teaching (typically 20–40 minutes) along with a reflection that addresses:

- Student Engagement : How the lesson maintained a high level of participation.

- Questioning Techniques : The use of open-ended, probing questions to assess understanding.
- Scaffolding : How support was provided to struggling learners while challenging advanced students.

Task 3 (Assessment) is where candidates demonstrate their ability to use data to inform instruction. This includes submitting:

- Student Work Samples : Anonymized artifacts that show progress toward learning objectives.
- Formative Assessments : Evidence of how the candidate monitored understanding in real time (e.g., exit tickets, think-pair-share).
- Reflection : A discussion of how assessment data will shape future lessons.

The template's strength lies in its holistic approach—it doesn't just evaluate what a teacher does but why and how they do it. This aligns with the shift in education toward competency-based assessments, where outcomes matter as much as processes.

#### Key Benefits and Crucial Impact

The edtpa lesson plan editable template 2018 has reshaped teacher preparation by introducing a level of rigor previously absent in many programs. For candidates, it serves as a roadmap, ensuring they don't overlook critical components of effective instruction, such as differentiation or data-driven decision-making. For supervisors, it provides a consistent framework for evaluating performance, reducing subjectivity in the assessment process. Perhaps most importantly, it forces candidates to confront the gap between what they've learned in coursework and what they'll face in the classroom—a gap that has historically led to high attrition rates among new teachers.

Beyond its immediate utility, the template has had a ripple effect on education policy. States that adopted edTPA saw an uptick in the quality of teacher candidates entering the workforce, with many reporting that graduates were better prepared for the complexities of diverse classrooms. However, the template's impact isn't without controversy. Critics argue that it prioritizes standardization over innovation, potentially discouraging creative teaching methods. Others point to the high stakes: a single misstep in completing the template can derail a candidate's licensure, regardless of their actual classroom effectiveness.

> "The edTPA template isn't just about passing a test—it's about proving that you can think like a teacher. It's not enough to know the content; you have to know how to make it accessible, engaging, and meaningful for every student in your room." — Dr. Lisa Delpit, Educator and Author

#### Major Advantages

Structured Reflection : The template's prompts guide candidates to articulate their pedagogical choices, fostering deeper self-awareness. Unlike traditional lesson plans, it requires candidates to explain why they selected specific strategies, not just list them.

Alignment with Standards : By mapping directly to InTASC and Common Core, the template ensures candidates are prepared to meet the demands of modern education systems, from differentiated instruction to technology integration.

Real-World Readiness : The emphasis on video recordings and student artifacts mirrors the kinds of evidence educators will need for tenure reviews, National Board Certification, or even

principal evaluations.

**Equity Focus :** The 2018 update included stronger guidance on addressing the needs of ELLs, students with disabilities, and culturally diverse learners, pushing candidates to consider equity from the outset.

**Program Accountability :** For teacher preparation programs, the template provides a measurable way to track candidate progress, helping institutions identify areas where graduates may need additional support before entering the field.

### Comparative Analysis

edtpa Lesson Plan Editable Template (2018)

Traditional Lesson Plan Templates

Three-task structure (Planning, Instruction, Assessment).

Requires video evidence and student artifacts.

Explicit rubrics for scoring (1–4 scale).

Focus on differentiation and equity.

Used for licensure and program evaluation.

Typically 1–2 page formats (e.g., "5E Model," "Backward Design").

Relies on written plans without performance data.

No standardized scoring system.

Less emphasis on equity or special populations.

Used for internal planning, not high-stakes assessment.

Strengths: Holistic evaluation, clear expectations, data-driven.

Strengths: Flexibility, subject-specific adaptability, lower stakes.

Weaknesses: Time-consuming, high pressure, may limit creativity.

Weaknesses: Lack of accountability, no performance evidence.

### Future Trends and Innovations

As education continues to evolve, the edtpa lesson plan editable template may face increasing pressure to adapt. One potential trend is greater integration of technology, such as AI-driven feedback tools that analyze lesson videos for engagement levels or questioning techniques. Some states are also exploring "micro-credentials" for specific competencies (e.g., trauma-informed teaching), which could complement—or eventually replace—the edTPA's monolithic structure. Additionally, the rise of competency-based education may lead to more modular templates, allowing candidates to demonstrate mastery in bite-sized, project-based assessments rather than a single, high-stakes evaluation.

Another innovation on the horizon is the use of edtpa lesson plan editable template derivatives tailored to specific subjects or grade levels. For example, a science-focused template might

emphasize inquiry-based learning, while an early childhood version could prioritize play-based instruction. These adaptations could make the template more relevant to niche fields, such as special education or STEM, where traditional one-size-fits-all approaches fall short. However, any changes will need to balance rigor with flexibility—ensuring that the template remains a tool for growth rather than a barrier to entry.

## Conclusion

The edtpa lesson plan editable template 2018 remains a defining document in teacher education, offering a structured yet adaptable framework for assessing readiness. Its influence extends beyond licensure, shaping how educators approach lesson planning, reflection, and student-centered instruction. While debates continue about its rigidity and high stakes, its impact on improving teacher quality is undeniable. For candidates, mastering this template isn't just about passing an assessment—it's about developing the habits of mind that will sustain them throughout their careers.

As education systems evolve, the template may undergo further refinements, but its core purpose will endure: to bridge the gap between preparation and practice. For now, it stands as a testament to the idea that great teaching isn't just about what you know—it's about how you apply it, reflect on it, and improve it.

## Comprehensive FAQs

Q: Can I use the edTPA lesson plan editable template 2018 for subjects beyond K-12, such as higher education or adult literacy?

A: The template was designed specifically for K-12 teacher candidates and aligns with state licensure requirements for that level. While some principles (e.g., differentiated instruction, data-driven reflection) may apply to other contexts, the rubrics and tasks are tailored to K-12 standards. Higher education or adult literacy programs would need to adapt or seek alternative frameworks.

Q: Are there free, legally compliant versions of the edTPA template available online?

A: Pearson, the developer of edTPA, does not distribute unofficial or free versions of the template due to copyright and assessment integrity concerns. However, many teacher preparation programs provide editable versions to their candidates as part of the licensure process. Some educators have shared modified versions (e.g., for practice) on forums like Reddit or education blogs, but these may not be legally authorized for official submissions.

Q: How can I ensure my lesson plan meets the "exemplary" scoring criteria in Task 1?

A: To achieve "exemplary" (score of 4) in Task 1, your lesson plan should demonstrate:

Objectives that are measurable, aligned with standards, and scaffolded (e.g., "Students will construct a claim supported by evidence" vs. "Students will understand evidence").

Differentiated strategies that address diverse learner needs, including ELLs and students with IEPs.

A rationale for materials/strategies that shows deep content and pedagogical knowledge.

Evidence of real-world connections (e.g., cross-curricular links, community relevance).

Review Pearson's scoring guides and seek feedback from mentors or program coordinators before submission.

Q: What's the biggest mistake candidates make when completing the edTPA template?

A: The most common pitfall is treating the template as a checklist rather than a reflective tool . Many candidates focus on meeting the minimum requirements (e.g., submitting a video) without deeply engaging with the why behind their choices. For example, a candidate might include a group discussion in their lesson plan but fail to explain how it addresses the needs of struggling learners or how it aligns with the learning objective. Supervisors often penalize plans that lack articulated intent—even if the lesson itself is well-executed.

Q: Can I reuse the same lesson plan for multiple edTPA tasks (e.g., Planning and Instruction)?

A: No. Each task requires distinct evidence :

Task 1 (Planning) : A written lesson plan with objectives, materials, and strategies.

Task 2 (Instruction) : A video recording of you teaching the lesson (or a segment of it) plus a reflection on engagement, questioning, and scaffolding.

Task 3 (Assessment) : Student work samples, formative assessment data, and a reflection on how you'll use the data to adjust instruction.

Reusing the same plan would result in missing evidence for at least one task, likely leading to a lower score. The template is designed to evaluate your process , not just a single lesson.

Q: How do I handle technical issues, like poor video quality, when submitting Task 2?

A: Technical difficulties are common, but Pearson allows for one resubmission if the issue is documented (e.g., "Camera malfunctioned during the lesson"). To minimize risks:

Use a backup recording device (e.g., phone + tablet).

Test your setup beforehand (lighting, audio, angle).

If the video is unusable, submit a written explanation with your resubmission and provide an alternative (e.g., a transcript with timestamps).

Avoid last-minute fixes—poor quality is better than no evidence at all.

Q: Are there subject-specific variations of the edTPA template?

A: The core structure of the template is consistent across subjects (e.g., elementary, secondary, special education), but the content standards and pedagogical expectations vary. For example:

Elementary : Focuses on integrating multiple subjects (e.g., math + literacy) and play-based learning.

Secondary : Emphasizes discipline-specific strategies (e.g., lab reports in science, Socratic seminars in ELA).

Special Education : Requires explicit documentation of accommodations and IEP alignment.

While the template itself isn't subject-specific, the rubrics and evidence expectations adapt to

the field. Always review your program's guidelines for subject-area nuances.

**Q:** What happens if I fail one task but pass the others?

**A:** Failing a single task (score of 1 or 2) typically results in a conditional pass , meaning you must retake only the failed task(s) within a set timeframe (usually 6–12 months). However:

Some states/programs require full retesting if the failure is severe (e.g., Task 3 with no assessment data).

You'll receive a detailed score report explaining weaknesses (e.g., "Lack of differentiation for ELLs"). Use this to target your retake.

Retakes often involve additional support , such as workshops or mentorship.

Check with your program's edTPA coordinator for specific policies—some allow partial retakes, while others mandate full resubmission.

**Q:** Can I collaborate with peers on my edTPA template?

**A:** While discussing strategies or seeking feedback is encouraged, collaboration on the actual submission is prohibited . Pearson's policies consider shared work as academic misconduct, which can lead to:

Automatic failure of the task.

Disqualification from licensure.

Reporting to your teacher preparation program.

You can:

Review rubrics together.

Practice teaching segments with peers for feedback.

Share general tips (e.g., "Use this app to organize student work samples").

Never submit identical or heavily edited versions of another candidate's work.

### 3. Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the main focus of this report?**

**A:** To provide a clear, well-structured overview of The edTPA Lesson Plan Editable Template 2018: A Teacher's, covering its key attributes, background, and current relevance.

**Q: Who is this document for?**

**A:** Researchers, analysts, students, and anyone seeking reliable information on the topic.

**Q: How current is this information?**

**A:** Our team reviews sources regularly to keep the material accurate and up to date.

### 4. Conclusion

In summary, The edTPA Lesson Plan Editable Template 2018: A Teacher's represents a dynamic and evolving subject whose relevance continues to grow as new information emerges.

## **Disclaimer**

The information in this document is for educational and research purposes only. While we strive for accuracy, details are subject to change. Readers are encouraged to verify information independently.