

CPAST

As of the 2025-26 academic year, MLC will no longer require its teacher candidates to complete the edTPA portfolio. The reason MLC made this decision is because PELSB has approved three options (edTPA Portfolio, CPAST, both CPAST & edTPA Portfolio) for all MN teacher education colleges.

The CCAST, or Candidate Preservice Assessment of Student Teaching, is a tool used to assess student teachers during their practicum experience. It's a valid and reliable instrument developed by VARI-EPP. The CCAST serves as both a formative and summative assessment, providing feedback throughout the student teaching period and a final evaluation. It focuses on evaluating teacher candidates' pedagogy and dispositions, with detailed descriptors for each area, according to The Ohio State University.

- **Purpose:**

The CCAST helps identify areas of strength and areas where student teachers need further development. It also provides data for program improvement in educator preparation programs.

- **Components:**

The CCAST includes two main sections: Pedagogy and Dispositions, each with multiple sub-sections.

- o **Pedagogy:** This section evaluates the candidate's teaching skills, including planning for instruction and assessment, instructional delivery, assessment practices, and analysis of teaching.

- o **Dispositions:** This section assesses the candidate's professional attitudes and behaviors, such as punctuality, collaboration, and responsiveness to feedback.

Use:

The CCAST is used during two main conferences: a formative mid-term conference and a summative final conference. These conferences involve the student teacher, the cooperating teacher, and the university supervisor.

- **Scoring:**

The CCAST uses a rating scale where: 0 = Does Not Meet Expectations, 1 = Emerging, 2 = Meets Expectations, and 3 = Exceeds Expectations.

- **Data Collection:**

Data is collected by the cooperating teacher, the student teacher (self-assessment), and the university supervisor, providing a triangulated view of the candidate's performance.

- **Relationship to edTPA:**

In some states, like Minnesota, the CCAST can be used as an alternative to the edTPA, another performance-based assessment for teacher licensure.

In essence, the CCAST is a comprehensive tool that helps guide and evaluate the development of future teachers, ensuring they are well-prepared to enter the profession, according to the Minnesota Board of School Administrators.