



Briefing Bulletin

Research and Educational Services

04-03
(replaces 98-03, 00-03, & 00-11)

March 2004

New York State Teacher Certification Exams *The Assessment of Teaching Skills - Performance (ATS-P)*

Please note that the Assessment of Teaching Skills - Performance (ATS-P), also known as the performance video, is a permanent certification requirement in New York State for only certain certificate titles. If you currently hold provisional certification in PreK-Grade 6, Grades 7-12 subject areas (English, mathematics, social studies, biology, chemistry, earth science, chemistry, and languages other than English), and English to speakers of other languages, then you will need to take and pass the ATS-P.

New requirements for NYS teacher certification came into effect on February 2, 2004. As a result, individuals applying for a new certificate for the first time after February 2, 2004 will not need to take and pass the ATS-P.

However, if you are required to pass the ATS-P for permanent certification under the old regulatory requirements, **you will still have to pass the ATS-P!** A provisional certificate continues to be valid for five years while teachers meet the requirements for permanent certification. Individuals holding provisional certification will continue to take the ATS-P until as late as February 2011.

For this assessment the candidate is required to prepare a twenty (20) to thirty (30) minute videotape of instruction with students who are part of their regular teaching assignments in grades PreK through 12. The tape must be continuous and may not be edited. If there is a stop in the tape, it will be rated as unscorable and another tape and fee must be submitted. To complete the ATS-P, the candidate must be employed in a public or a non-public school, and this teaching may be videotaped in a PreK, elementary, middle or secondary school classroom.

While a provisional certificate is not a prerequisite, the ATS-P rating standard assumes one or more years of teaching experience. It is not merely a demonstration of skills, but of applying those skills effectively, particularly those skills and abilities defined by the *ATS-P Instructional Delivery Objectives*.

Rating the Tapes

Each tape submitted is evaluated by qualified, permanently certified New York State educators. The Office of Teaching Initiatives of the State Education Department has contracted with National Evaluation Systems (NES) to oversee the development of the assessment and the training of the raters.

The videotape is evaluated according to procedures developed by NES. The evaluation reflects a holistic rating, an overall judgment of teaching skills based on the five *ATS-P Instructional Delivery Objectives*. The candidate must demonstrate that he/she:

1. understands principles and procedures for organizing and implementing lessons and uses knowledge to help learners construct meaning and achieve intended outcomes;

2. understands multiple approaches to instruction and uses this knowledge to facilitate learning in various situations;
3. understands how motivational principles and practices can be used to promote student achievement and active engagement in learning;
4. understands how to use a variety of communication modes to promote student learning and to foster a climate of trust and support in the classroom; and
5. understands how to structure and manage a classroom to create a climate that fosters a safe and productive learning environment.

After the scoring, the applicant will receive a score report of:

- Pass;
- Not Pass; or
- RNM — Requirements Not Met: This reflects insufficient evidence to judge teaching skills. (e.g., an interruption in the recording, the recording is less than 20 minutes, the recording does not include a minimum of 10 minutes of non-whole group instruction, etc.).

The procedure for scoring tapes is as follows:

After extensive training to achieve rater reliability, the tapes will be independently scored, then each group of at least two teachers will reach consensus on a score. For candidates who do not pass, the group of raters will identify the skills which were not adequate.

Tapes scored as “Not Pass” then will be reviewed by a review panel, who have been comparably trained in the same scoring standards. The review panel may determine that:

- the scores of the previous rater(s) should be considered final, or
- the tapes should be forwarded to SED for determination of a final score.

Requesting an Application

Candidates who apply will be sent an *ATS-P Procedures Manual* and other supplementary materials, approximately two weeks after submitting a correct registration form and a fee of \$145.00. These materials will contain all specific rules and detailed instructions for completing the ATS-P.

The ATS-P is typically offered three times each school year. The videotape and related documentation must be submitted by the deadlines as directed on the registration. A candidate may be required to comply with any new requirements included in the new registration materials.

The *Registration Bulletin* for all the New York State Teacher Certification Exams may be obtained from:

**New York State Education Department
Office of Teaching Initiatives
5N Education Building
Albany, New York 12234**
or on the web at www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert

This document contains a very complete explanation of the procedures involved in applying for the ATS-P as well as the other New York State exams.

In addition, the *ATS-P Information Guide*, which provides more detailed information on the ATS-P, can also be obtained from the Office of Teaching Initiatives.

A Teacher's Right to Tape

Commissioner's regulations state that a school district may not prohibit a teacher from taping their classroom performance for purposes of certification. Further, student waivers are not required for the taping.

Resources

Teacher centers, BOCES or district staff developers may be good resources for assisting candidates in practicing and actually completing the required videotape. Individuals should also contact their local union about a workshop from the NYSUT Effective Teaching Program on the ATS-P.