Tailored Educator Credentials (TEC) Pilot Test

Participant Handbook for Elementary Education, Middle School Science, & Advanced Mathematics

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Contact Information

tedcred.com

Email: **inquiries@acsventures.com**

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Introduction

About ACS Ventures, LLC.

ACS was established in 2016 to address a need in the assessment community for design, development, evaluation, operational support, and quality assurance. These needs align with the team's core capabilities and allow them to apply their experiences and knowledge of assessment policy and practice in the education, certification, and licensure sectors.

ACS serves as an independent test developer and psychometric partner to state and local agencies, test publishers, and test providers. This includes evaluating and designing programs, test development, and conducting validation studies such as practice analysis, alignment, and standard setting. In addition, ACS offers guidance for agencies in PK-12 and higher education seeking review or redesign programs. ACS team is committed to providing practical solutions that help organizations ensure the validity, reliability, and fairness of their assessment programs.

About TEC

Background & Purpose

The Tailored Educator Credentials (TEC) is an innovative educator credentialing assessment program that efficiently measures the integrated content knowledge and pedagogical skills that educators perform on the job. TEC test was designed to integrate content and pedagogical knowledge and skills; to provide an efficient measurement approach; and to reduce costs of development and maintenance, and to reduce fees candidates pay for multiple exams without losing the rigor of the testing process.

The purpose of the TEC is to provide an efficient measurement approach to ensuring minimum competency of educators for initial license, certification, or adding endorsements to their credentials. By integrating content with pedagogical knowledge and skills, the test focuses on authentic, job-related skills in a way that was originally recommended by the National Academy of Science's *Testing Teacher Candidates* (2001) project. The core concept of domain-specific pedagogy is what educators are asked to demonstrate in practice. Using task templates with variable features that permit tailoring the testing experience, the test provides a common framework that aligns program accreditation standards while providing context in the area the educator is seeking their credential.

After the pilot test, TEC will be scaled to be available to eligible new educator candidates, certified educators seeking additional endorsements (e.g., adding a subject area) and as an alternate

pathway to certification candidates such as alternate certification programs including apprenticeships.

TEC Pilot Test Administration

The TEC test is designed to measure the core competencies of an educator: domain-specific pedagogical knowledge and skills in addition to professional responsibilities such as classroom management and communication skills.

The TEC Pilot Test is a trial of the newly developed assessment and is being conducted on a small scale with a limited number of participants before its full implementation. The purpose is to gather data and feedback from participants for necessary adjustments, clarifications, or improvements. The TEC Pilot Test will be used to evaluate participants' experience from registration to delivery and scoring.

The TEC Pilot Test will be administered in three subject areas:

- **Elementary Education,**
- **Middle School Science, and**
- **Advanced Mathematics.**

Eligibility Requirements

The TEC Pilot test is available to a select number of participants who are in one of these categories:

- Teachers within their first three years of practice.
- Students who are in the last year of an educator preparation program.
- Candidates pursuing teacher credentials through alternative certification or apprenticeships.

About

TEC Pilot Test items have been developed and evaluated by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in the education field. The TEC Pilot Test includes short answer questions that align with the blueprint below.

Number of Questions

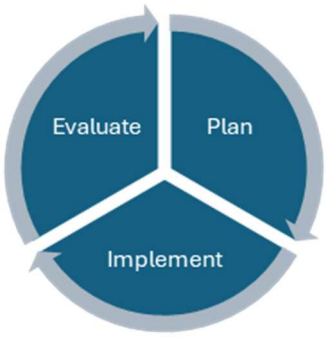
Each TEC Pilot Test is a 24-question test, organized as 6 item sets with 4 questions in each set, that measures domain-specific pedagogy for the respective subject area – Elementary Education, Middle School Science, and Advanced Mathematics.

Content Outline

The TEC exam is designed to measure an individual's knowledge and understanding of:

- **Curriculum** that outlines what students are expected to learn in their subject area inclusive of **learner development and differences** that describe how students build their knowledge in a content area, and how their individual differences influence their learning styles,
- **Instruction** strategies, tools, and techniques,
- **Assessment** strategies to generate formative and summative feedback on student learning,
- **Professional Responsibility** for educators.

And their ability to demonstrate the following **professional skills**:



- **Plan** instructional activities.
- **Implement** instructional plans.
- **Evaluate** student learning and determining the needs and next steps for all learners.

Participants will be presented with 6 content-oriented contextual tasks (e.g., teaching a lesson on a particular knowledge or skill within Elementary Education, Middle School Science, or Advanced Mathematics) that each include four questions. Participants will use their content knowledge and professional skills to provide a brief response (4-6 sentences) to each question.

Each question was designed to target one area of knowledge (i.e., Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, Professional Responsibilities) and one professional skill (i.e., Plan, Implement, Evaluate):

Curriculum (includes learner development & differences)	35%
Instruction	30%
Assessment	20%
Professional Responsibilities	15%
Total	**100%**

Test Time and Breaks

The TEC Pilot Test standard administration will be 3 hours delivered as two 90-minute modules. An initial 15-minute period will be provided for participants to familiarize themselves with the software, followed by a 15-minute break between the first and second modules of the examination.

Test Fees

The TEC Pilot Test is **free of charge**. Participants selected to take the test will receive a $200 gift card upon successful completion of the test and a short questionnaire about the experience.

Test Dates

The online TEC Pilot Tests for Elementary Education, Middle School Science, and Advanced Mathematics will be delivered between **May 1-31, 2026**.

Test Preparation Materials

Sample questions for all three subject areas (TEC- Elementary Education, TEC-Middle School Science, and TEC - Advanced Mathematics) are available in **Appendix A** section of this Handbook**.**

Applying for the TEC Pilot Test

Application Deadline

The application for the TEC Pilot Test for Elementary Education, Middle School Science, and Advanced Mathematics opens on **April 7** and closes at midnight PDT on **May 15, 2026.** The TEC Pilot Test application form is available on the Tedcred.com website.

Confirmation of Application

To participate in the TEC Pilot Test, participants must complete the application form for review.

If you are selected for the TEC Pilot Test, a confirmation email will be sent to the contact email address you have provided on your application within 5 business days from submitting your application.

Once the application has been approved, participants will receive detailed instructions on how to take part in the TEC Pilot Test. On the scheduled day, participants should be ready with all required documents and equipment as outlined in the confirmation email. The Pilot Test will include short answer questions for the test followed by user experience questions.

Taking the TEC Pilot Test

Once you have been approved for the TEC Pilot Test, you will receive emails from Strasz Assessment Systems describing the system requirements.

Test Administration

The TEC Elementary Education, Middle School Science, and Advanced Mathematics Pilot Tests are only available through live online proctoring. In-person administration is not available for the Pilot Tests.

ID Requirements

On the test day, participants are required to have their valid photo ID ready (passport/driving licence/government-issued photo ID) to sit for the test. If a participant fails to show a valid ID on the day of their test, they will not be permitted to sit the test.

The participant's name on their photo ID must match their name on the application form.

Rescheduling the Test

For the TEC Pilot Tests, cancelling or rescheduling a Test is allowed before 72 hours of the scheduled Test appointment**.**

Following the TEC Pilot Test

Score Reports

The TEC Pilot Test score reports will be available by **June 30, 2026**.

TEC Pilot Test has 24, short-answer questions scored on two 0-2 scales with a scoring rubric for Content and Pedagogy. For each score, the candidate's response will demonstrate:

Content Score

- 2 – appropriate and sufficient subject matter knowledge.
- 1 – appropriate, but insufficient subject matter knowledge.
- 0 – a lack of appropriate subject matter knowledge.

Pedagogy Score

- 2 – appropriate and sufficient pedagogical knowledge and skills.
- 1 – appropriate, but insufficient pedagogical knowledge and skills.
- 0 – a lack of appropriate pedagogical knowledge and skills.

The score reports will communicate the results of the TEC tests in a clear and accessible manner. They will include an overall summary of the participant's performance, content score, pedagogy score, and summary breakdown by each major domain – Content, Learners and Learning, Instructional Practices, and Professional Responsibility.

Policies

Statement of Non-Discrimination

The TEC program is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for all participants in the pilot test. Discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other protected characteristic is strictly prohibited. Every participant will be afforded equal access to participate and will be assessed solely on their competencies and qualifications as outlined by the certification objectives. We strive to ensure that the pilot test is fair, respectful, and free from bias, upholding the values of diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity throughout the assessment process.

Code of Ethical & Professional Conduct

This policy establishes the expectations for ethical and professional behavior for all participants of the TEC Pilot Test. By upholding these principles, we aim to ensure a fair, respectful, and trustworthy assessment environment for all participants.

- Integrity: Participants and administrators must act with honesty and transparency in all actions related to the Pilot test, avoiding any form of deception, cheating, or misrepresentation.
- Confidentiality: Personal information, test materials, and individual responses must be kept strictly confidential, only shared with authorized personnel as necessary for the assessment process.
- Respect: All individuals will demonstrate respect for one another, valuing diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences. Discrimination or harassment of any kind is strictly prohibited, as outlined in the Statement of Non-Discrimination.
- Fairness: All assessment processes and interactions will be carried out equitably, ensuring each participant is provided with equal opportunity and held to the same standards.
- Accountability: Participants and staff are responsible for understanding and complying with all policies, procedures, and instructions related to the Pilot test.
- Professionalism: Individuals are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively in the certification process, maintaining decorum, punctuality, and preparedness.
- Abide by all test rules, instructions, and timelines as communicated by the proctor
- Refrain from any unauthorized collaboration, use of prohibited materials.

- Engage constructively in feedback processes, providing honest and respectful input to improve the TEC assessment.

By participating in the Pilot test, all participants acknowledge their responsibility to uphold this Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct, contributing to a culture of excellence, integrity, and mutual respect.

Request for Testing Accommodations

The TEC program complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and through Strasz Assessment Systems, the test services provider, accommodates testing requests to comply with ADA.

Requests for testing accommodation from participants with a documented disability that substantially limits the participant's ability to complete the test under standard administration conditions, in accordance with the guidelines set forth by ADA.

For the TEC Pilot Tests, additional testing time (i.e., time and a half, double testing time) accommodation is available. If you require testing accommodation such as extended time for the TEC Pilot Test, please complete the form using this link. Once your request has been reviewed, you will receive confirmation detailing the approved arrangements.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to participate in the TEC-Advanced Math and/or Middle School Science Pilot Tests?

If you are in one of these three categories, you may be eligible to take the TEC Pilot Test:

- Teachers within their first three years of practice.
- Students who are in the last year of an educator preparation program.
- Candidates pursuing teacher credentials through alternative certification or apprenticeships.

How can I apply to take the TEC-Elementary Education, Middle School Science, or Advanced Mathematics Pilot Tests?

If you'd like to take the TEC Pilot Test either in Elementary Education, Middle School Science, or Advanced Mathematics, please complete the TEC Application Form found here.

How much does the Pilot Test for the TEC-Elementary Education, TEC-Middle School Science, and/or TEC- Advanced Mathematics cost?

TEC-Elementary Education, TEC-Middle School Science, and TEC-Advanced Mathematics Pilot Tests are free of charge with selected participants receiving a $200 gift card upon completion.

What are the system requirements to take the TEC Pilot Test?

- For test delivery **we do not support** the following: Google Chromebooks, Android tablets (Nexus 7, etc.), iOS tablets (iPad, iPad mini, etc.), and Microsoft Surface RT.
- We recommend you do not take the test in a work environment nor use a work laptop.
- If you are planning on using a Wi-Fi connection, check no-one else is using the Wi-Fi at the same time as their usage may affect your connection. Ensure you are positioned where the Wi-Fi signal is strongest. A wired connection will ensure a stable connection.
- You must ensure that you complete the system check on the same device(s) and in the same location that you will be taking the test.

What is the benefit of participating in the TEC Pilot Test?

The current value for participants in the TEC Pilot Test is primarily formative, providing information about the job-related knowledge and skills that teachers use in practice.

Is it possible to use TEC Pilot Test results for state teacher certification applications?

The TEC is in its Pilot phase and is not currently accepted by any state as part of its credentialing process.

How can I apply for Testing Accommodations for the TEC Pilot Test?

You can apply for testing accommodations for the TEC Pilot Test by completing the TEC Pilot Test - Testing Accommodations Request Form when you apply.

Appendix A – Sample Test Questions

TEC – Elementary Education Sample Test Questions

Your students are beginning a unit to learn about the following:
ELA: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

1. Describe two areas of prior knowledge and skills that students would need to engage with this lesson and why they are important.
2. What is one common misconception that students may develop when building their knowledge in this area?
3. Describe an activity that would help students practice their understanding of this content.
4. How would you enhance the learning opportunity for a student who was more advanced in the class?

TEC – Middle School Science Sample Test Questions

Your students are beginning a unit to learn about the following:

Earth and Space Science: Construct a scientific explanation for uneven distribution of resources.

1. Describe an instruction plan that you could create that would include connecting it to another academic subject.
2. What is one common misconception that students may develop when building their knowledge in this area?
3. What is one activity you could use to have students practice their understanding of this content?
4. How would you enhance the learning opportunity for a student who was more advanced in the class?

TEC – Advanced Mathematics Sample Test Questions

Your students are beginning a unit to learn about the following:

Statistics and Probability: Understand and evaluate random processes underlying statistical experiments.

1. What instructional strategy would you use to plan for this lesson? Why do you think it would be effective?
2. What are two types of tasks that could be included in a summative assessment to show understanding of this material?

3. Describe an activity that students could do in small groups to reinforce their learning of this subject matter.
4. What would be a logical next step in a student's learning sequence after demonstrating mastery of this concept?