

Letter 2

***b. Letter 2—to BOT***

Heading

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President, Minnesota Board of Teaching

I write on behalf of members of the education unit at St. Cloud state and the members of my advisory committee. Recently we convened the faculty to review selected national data from the spring 2013 edTPA pilot study. Given our discussion, we offer the following recommendations to members of the BOT.

- It concerns us deeply that African American and white candidates scored differentially on the national pilot assessment, the two populations were about 1/3 of a standard deviation apart, favoring white candidates. We want to explore racial/ethnic differences further and to support the collection of pertinent data at the state level *before* the edTPA becomes high stakes for teacher candidates.
- Because of the observed discrepancy, we recommend that a moratorium be placed on the decision to require the edTPA for licensure until and unless we can learn more about (a) racial/ethnic disparities in Minnesota, and (b) the statewide predictive validity of the instrument
- We request that, if the instrument becomes required for licensure, that both local and national scoring be worked into the decision matrix. We advocate this step because we believe that our faculty members certainly possess a better understanding of the local context than do national assessors.

We will continue to offer our support for this conversation and to offer any technical assistance that would expedite the discussion.

Osman Alawiye  
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