

New Principal (268) and Performance Assessment for School Leaders (PASL) Certification Assessment

November 2017 Update

Highlights of this Update

This update is part of an ongoing effort to provide stakeholders with the most up-to-date information for the Principal (268) and PASL assessments.

The highlights of this update include:

- Page 2 Principal Certification Preview Document: A precursor to the preparation manual
- Page 2 A link to PowerPoint information TEA shared during the Regional Forums
- Page 3 A Timeline for the Transition from 068 to 268
- Page 4 A General Timeline for the PASL Submission Process
- Pages 5-12 Highlighted Frequently Asked Questions for the 268 and PASL assessments

Sources of Information

- [Principal/PASL EPP Informational Web Page](#)
- [Principal and PASL Webinar conducted 6/27](#)
- [PASL Assessment Overview webinar conducted 8/1](#)
- [PASL Deep Dive into Task 1 conducted 11/1](#)
- [PASL Website, including Task Requirements, Rubric, and Educator Handbook](#)
- [TEA Regional Forum PowerPoint Presentation conducted November 2017](#)
- [Full Frequently Asked Questions Document](#)

Save the Date

PASL Webinar: A Deep Dive into Task 2 — February 2018

PASL Webinar: A Deep Dive into Task 3 — May 2018

TEA Regional Forums- A Huge Success

The TEA held regional forums in November in San Antonio, Midland, Houston, and Fort Worth. The purpose of these forums was to provide more detailed information about the new principal certification requirements, answer questions, and foster sharing of best practices among Principal preparation programs.

During the regional forums the TEA shared the following documents:

- A side-by-side comparison of the 068 and 268 assessments, including domain weights and key characteristics of 268 items
- Sample 268 assessment questions, including a sample constructed-response question
- A key terms list that helps exemplify changes in the assessment's focus
- A key resource list that can help guide EPPs and candidates as they prepare
- An updated framework that includes the knowledge and skills that will be assessed by the constructed-response questions

Click [here](#) to view the PowerPoint presentation used by the TEA during the forums.

Principal Preview Information: *Transitioning from 068 to 268*

During the regional forums, the TEA shared key information on the transition from 068 to the 268 and PASL assessments. We have compiled this key information into a "[Principal Preview Information](#)" document. This document is a precursor to the 268 preparation manual. Its purpose is to provide preparation programs with updated information as it becomes available. Currently this document includes the 268 framework, a key resource list, a key terms list, characteristics of questions, information about the 268 test design, and comparison information (068 vs. 268).

A Timeline for the Transition from 068 to 268 and PASL

Principal Assessment Rollout: From 068 to 268/PASL



*Eligible candidates include those who have never attempted the TExES Principal (068) test.

**Contingent upon candidate completing of all other certification requirements by 8/31/2019 and being recommended and applying for certification by 10/30/2019

Both the 268 and PASL are intended to be summative assessments of the knowledge and skills necessary for safe and competent practice as a principal. A preparation program's approval for a candidate to take these assessments is important and most helpful near the end of the candidate's program.

No matter which test candidates take, the 068, the 268, or the 268 and PASL assessment, a candidate will have 5 attempts to pass each assessment individually.

Principal (268) Administration

Eligible candidates will be able to register to take the Principal (268) examination free of charge during the initial administration windows (December 2018, January 2019, February 2019). Eligible candidates include those who have never attempted the TExES Principal (068) test. After the initial free offerings, the 268 administration windows will be in July, October, January and April annually. Registration deadlines and timelines for the 268 offerings are forthcoming. Check back later for further information.

The 268 assessment will be given quarterly to allow for individualized scoring of the constructed-response questions. Candidates can expect to receive 268 score reports approximately 4 weeks after the end of the administration window.

A General Timeline for the PASL Assessment Submission Process

The dates and deadlines for PASL registration will be provided on the website as each submission cycle takes effect. However, below are approximate submission windows to give preparation programs a sense of the timelines for planning purposes.

Submission Process Dates	Fall Window	Spring Window
Registration	Fall and Spring registration for an academic year opens in July	
Submission System Opens	August	January
Task Submission	October/November	March/April
Task Resubmission	December/January	May/June

Like the 268, the PASL is intended to be a summative assessment measuring the knowledge and skills necessary for safe and competent practice as a principal. As a summative assessment, the PASL is best placed near the end of a candidate’s preparation program, based on the approval of the preparation program.

That being said, candidates can begin working on parts of their PASL Tasks before the candidate registers to take the assessment — all aspects of the assessment are available [online](#) to candidates now. Candidates can best use the period between registration opening and Task submission closing to enter their written commentary, upload artifacts, and upload permission forms to the online submission system.

Each candidate will receive scores on the online submission system where the candidate submitted his or her Tasks. Scores will be posted before the Task resubmission window opens and will include feedback by Task. Reviewing these scores and feedback will help candidates determine whether to resubmit. If unsuccessful, a candidate can chose to resubmit one, two, or all three Tasks at a cost of \$75 per task.

To resubmit a Task, a candidate must register for resubmission and enter his or her entire written commentary, video, and/or artifacts including revisions. The candidate can use the same topic of the Task originally submitted.

Information on the PASL Online Submission System is available in the [User Guide](#). More information on the PASL registration process and dates can be found on the [PASL website](#).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

With any certification change, there will be questions along the way! We want to make it easy for preparation programs to have their questions answered, see responses to other questions, and continue to learn as the design and development process advances.

We are compiling frequently asked questions (FAQs) for both the 268 and PASL assessments. In this update, we have highlighted questions recently asked by EPPs. We will continue to do this in future updates as well — we want to ensure that you have all the information you need for a smooth transition!

Click [here](#) for a more detailed, complete document with frequently asked questions.

Highlighted FAQs about the 268 Assessment

1. How many questions will be on the 268 test compared to the 068 test?

- The 268 test will include approximately 100 selected-response questions; 068 has 120 selected-response questions.
- The 268 test will include 4 constructed-response questions; there are no constructed-response questions on the 068 test.

Principal (268) Test Design Preview	
Test Name	Principal
Test Code	268
Testing Time	5 hours
Test Delivery Format	Computer-administered test (CAT)
Estimated Number of SR Questions	91-110
Estimated Number of CR Questions	4
Estimated Weighting of SR and CR sections	50-60% (SR) 40-50% (CR)

2. What are the differences between 068 and 268 domains and competencies?

- The 068 test has 3 domains and 9 competencies with descriptive statements under each competency.
- The 268 test has 6 domains and 11 competencies with descriptive statements under each competency. Selected descriptive statements are prioritized to indicate greater emphasis and provide focus for the candidate's preparation.

3. What are the content areas that have been separated to form the new domains in 268?

The domains in the 268 test align to the 2016 Texas Principal Standards. Compared to the domains in the 068 test, there are three major areas that have been elevated to new domains: 1) School Culture, 2) Human Capital, and 3) Ethics, Equity, and Diversity.

4. Will all six domains on the 268 test have a constructed-response question?

No, the constructed-response questions assess content from Domains I, II, and III only.

5. When compared to the 068 preparation manual, what enhancements will be made to the 268 preparation manual?

There are several enhancements planned for the 268 preparation manual, including:

- A key word list to explain important terms that may be new to candidates.
- A resource list to provide current leadership materials, especially related to the observation and coaching of teachers.
- A side-by-side comparison of 068 with 268 to help candidates see the major changes in item types, domains, and characteristics of questions.
- Sample test questions that are of the same rigor and relevance as the questions found on the actual 268 test.

6. When compared to the content on the 068 test, what are the new areas of emphasis on the 268 test?

- A much greater emphasis is being placed on instructional coaching and providing evidence-based feedback to teachers.
- Emphasis is being placed on supporting staff in the effective use of instructional data to inform instructional practice and develop intervention plans.
- Emphasis is being placed on continuous improvement, change management, and the importance of culture and diversity in schools.

7. After reviewing the TEA priority statements in the 268 framework and the sample questions that include video, it will be helpful for candidates to have opportunities to video record themselves facilitating coaching conferences with teachers. What can preparation programs do to help candidates in this area?

During a preparation program, each candidate should expect to experience multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency in coaching teachers. Preparation program instructions should include course assignments that allow candidates to plan coaching conferences, videotape themselves, reflect, and receive feedback from instructors and/or peers. Candidates should visit with instructors and/or program directors if additional authentic experiences are desired as part of the program.

8. Does the fact that Domain VI on ethics, equity, and diversity is weighted less than other domains mean that it is a low priority?

No. The principal standards development and principal assessment design committees felt this area was important enough to elevate it to its own domain to signify additional importance and emphasis. Additionally, Domains I through V divide their assigned weighting between two competencies, but the weighting for Domain VI includes only one competency. In addition, the 268 test questions will assess this content explicitly in Domain VI and implicitly by presenting scenarios within the context of equity and diversity when assessing content in other domains. Additionally, equity and diversity are embedded in multiple descriptive statements under other competencies. Please refer to the 268 framework to review areas such as I1H, I2D, II4B, II4D, IV7A, V10F, and V10H (notations include the domain, competency, and descriptive statement).

9. When will the 268 test preparation manual be available online?

Fall 2018.

10. What materials are available to candidates preparing to take the 268 test?

Two key resources will be available to help candidates prepare:

- An enhanced preparation manual will be provided online beginning in the fall of 2018 and will include key terms, a resource list, and a side-by-side comparison of the 068 test to the 268 test.
- An interactive practice test will be provided online, which will include a complete practice test in a format similar to the actual test. The interactive practice test will include an answer key and rationales to help candidates expand their understanding of the knowledge and skills assessed on the 268 test.

11. Will there be a scoring rubric for the constructed-response items for the 268 test?

Yes. A scoring rubric will be part of the information included in the new 268 preparation manual.

12. What is the latest date that a first-time test taker can take the 068 test?

December 31, 2018

13. When is the last time a candidate can be certified under the 068 test?

A candidate is required to have all coursework and internship requirements completed by August 31, 2019 and be recommended by his or her preparation program for their certification by October 30, 2019 to be certified under the 068 test.

14. How many attempts will candidates have for 068, 268, and PASL assessments?

Like other Texas licensure requirements, candidates will have five attempts to take each test: PASL, 268, and 068 individually.

15. Do previous attempts at taking the 068 test count toward the maximum of five opportunities if I take the 268 test?

No. 068 attempts are not counted toward the 268 test because they are different assessments.

16. Will the free offering of the 268 test in December 2018, January 2019, and February 2019 count toward a candidate’s five maximum attempts?

Yes. Anytime a candidate takes the 268 test, it will count as one of the five allowable attempts.

17. When is the last time a candidate can take 268 and be exempt from PASL?

The candidate must have passed the 268 test and completed all course work and internship activities by August, 31, 2019, AND the candidate must be recommended by his or her program and apply for certification by October 30, 2019.

18. Will the 268 test be a continuous administration examination like the 068 test?

No. Because constructed-response test questions will be individually scored, we anticipate 268 will have quarterly administration windows in July, October, January, and April.

19. When compared to the 068 test, why is there an increase in the cost of the 268 test and PASL assessments?

The primary reason for the increase in cost from \$131 for the 068 test to \$210 for the 268 test is the addition of constructed-response questions that must be scored individually by Raters. Similarly, the cost of the PASL assessment (\$400) is due to the extensive length of candidate responses that must be individually scored by Raters.

20. With respect to the 268 test and Performance Assessment for School Leaders (PASL), what is the biggest change expected for the practicum?

To ensure candidates have the knowledge and skills necessary for success on the 268 and PASL assessments, practicums should focus on authentic experiences and activities that will positively affect instructional practices and student learning. In order to have the kinds of experiences that are relevant to the current principal position, interns will need the support of their principal as well as opportunities to work with other teachers and committees. Candidates may want to consult with the program director about the possibility of getting an internship placement approval at the beginning of the preparation program.

Highlighted FAQs about the PASL Assessment

21. What are the main components of the PASL assessment?

The PASL assessment allows principal candidates to show what they know and are able to do and assesses their capability as a school leader. It is designed to:

- Develop more effective school leaders
- Identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement to guide professional practice
- Emphasize the role of school leaders in the area of school improvement

The PASL assessment contains three Tasks requiring written commentary and submission of required documents called artifacts to provide evidence of the knowledge and skills each task measures. A video of the principal candidate facilitating a collaborative team is required as one of the artifacts for Task 3. Tasks can be submitted over several months, allowing candidates to continually refine their professional practice.

Task 1: Problem Solving in the Field

In this task, candidates demonstrate the ability to address and resolve a significant problem/challenge in the school that influences practice and student learning. The task asks candidates to provide evidence of research, planning, communication with stakeholders, results or adjustments to the plan, and student work to address the problem/challenge.

Task 2: Supporting Continuous Professional Development

In this task, candidates demonstrate the skills needed to establish and support effective and continuous professional development with assigned staff. The task asks candidates to provide evidence of prioritizing and completing professional development, completing classroom walk-throughs, reviewing student work, and obtaining feedback after the professional development.

Task 3: Creating a Collaborative Team

In this task, candidates demonstrate their ability to facilitate stakeholders' efforts to build a collaborative team within the school to improve instructional practice, student achievement, and the school culture. Along with several other artifacts, a 15-minute video is required for this task.

Under current plans, the PASL will become operational in the fall of 2019, with registration opening in spring 2019. At that time, it will be administered twice a year with submissions due in the fall and spring.

More information about the PASL may be found at

<https://www.ets.org/ppa/test-takers/school-leaders/about.>

22. How can I get more guidance on the three PASL Tasks?

There are several resources available to candidates and preparation programs regarding PASL.

- The [PASL website](#) is a key resource providing the Task Requirements, Rubrics, Handbook, Library of Examples, permission forms, the system user guide, and registration information.
- For preparation programs, ETS will conduct webinars periodically throughout the 2017–18 school year and archive the PowerPoint presentations. The presentations can be accessed by EPPs only from the [Principal/PASL web page](#) in the EPP section of the website. Email any questions to EPPAdmin@ets.org.
- A [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) document](#) is provided on PASL topics.
- Below are links to all the important documents.

Document	Description
Standards	TX Principal Standards Alignment to the PASL Assessment
Task Requirements	Task 1 Requirements
	Task 2 Requirements
	Task 3 Requirements
Scoring Rubrics	Task 1 Rubric
	Task 2 Rubric
	Task 3 Rubric
Ancillary Materials	Information about the Ancillary Materials (shown below)
Handbook	Candidate and Prep Program Handbook
Candidate Templates	Optional Artifact Templates for use by candidates
Glossary	List of key terms referenced in the assessment
Library of Examples	Sample candidate responses to illustrate responses that meet and do not meet standards
Permission Forms	Three different permission forms that may be needed for adult and student participants
System User Guide	Information on the online submission system where candidates enter their responses and artifacts
PASL FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions About the <i>ETS</i> ® Performance Assessment for School Leaders (PASL)
PASL Website	Information on all aspects of the assessment. Updated documents will be posted here.
PASL Webinar Overview	PowerPoint slides from the first webinar in this four-part series (password EPPAdmin)

23. Are the PASL Task questions answered independently or in a testing location? What is the duration of test? What is the breakdown of time allowed for each prompt?

The PASL assessment does not require a testing location at all. The activities required in the PASL Tasks are completed by the candidates at their school, as coordinated with their principal. The written commentary and artifacts are completed and uploaded by the candidates from the comfort of their home to an online submission system after registering to take the PASL assessment. Candidates submit all three PASL Tasks during the submission window in any order they choose. All three Tasks must be submitted by the deadline so scoring can begin promptly. To give you an idea of the timelines for registration and submission, review the schedule of dates on the [PASL website](#).

24. Is it addressed anywhere what the registration process for the PASL assessment will look like?

The registration process for PASL assessment is provided on the [PASL website](#).

25. How does the PASL assessment address privacy of students' and others' personal information?

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that no identifying names or titles for teachers, colleagues, students, schools, and districts are included in the written commentary or artifacts. This helps ensure the responses are scored fairly and protects the identity of colleagues and students.

ETS required permission forms are found on the PASL website. These forms are used to collect and document the signed permission given for all individuals whose work is submitted, who appear in your submitted photographs, or who are seen or heard in video recordings. You must secure permission from all colleagues in your videos and each student who appears in a photograph or whose work samples you submit. More information on this topic can be found on pages 14-15 and 19 of the [PASL Handbook](#).

26. When do candidates register to complete the project? How long do candidates have to complete the projects once registered?

Principal preparation programs can determine when to approve candidates to take the PASL assessment. It is intended to be a summative assessment and most appropriately placed towards the end of a candidate's preparation program, perhaps during their internship. However, candidates can begin working on the artifacts and associated activities long before registering for PASL. All the Task Requirements and Rubrics for PASL are [available online](#). The PASL will have a fall and spring submission window. You can reference the PASL website to get a better idea of the timelines for registration and submission on the [PASL website](#).

27. Will the PASL assessment be separate from the 268 Principal assessment? If a candidate fails the 268 test and passes PASL, they just retake 268 and vice versa?

Once fully rolled out in the fall of 2019, principal candidates will be required to pass the 268 and PASL test for principal certification. If a candidate fails either test, the candidate can retake just that portion (268 or PASL).

28. Are candidates allowed five attempts for the PASL assessment?

Yes, like other Texas licensure requirements, candidates will have five attempts to take the PASL.

29. Is there a component/requirement in the PASL assessment to verify candidate's experience, work, and artifacts submitted?

To ensure candidates have completed the experiences necessary to register for the PASL and 268, the preparation program will be responsible for providing approval. More information on plagiarism and essay similarity detection is provided in the [PASL Handbook](#) on page 9.