

TExES Principal Certification Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

About This Document

As a part of our effort to communicate with preparation programs during the development process, we are compiling a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document. We hope this helps preparation programs answer specific questions, see responses to other questions, and continue to receive information as the design and development process advances.

This document contains the compiled FAQs for the Principal (268) assessment. We will continue to make updates to this document as additional information becomes available.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Principal (268) Assessment

1. When will the new Interactive Practice test for Principal (268) be released?

The interactive practice test for Principal (268) will be released in the fall of 2018. It will be available to candidates online and include 91 practice questions that are aligned to the actual Principal (268) assessment. Each question will include a rationale for correct answers to provide support to candidates as they prepare.

2. What is the turnaround time between Principal (268) testing day and when candidates will receive their scores?

Candidates will receive their scores approximately four weeks after the close of the testing window.

3. Is there a waiting period for candidates who fail the Principal (268) assessment and want to retest?

Candidates will be limited to five attempts to take the Principal (268) certification test. The five attempts will include the first attempt to pass the examination and four retakes. The standard 45-day test retake policy applies to the Principal test, although the limited administration nature of the test will impact how soon a candidate may retest.

4. Who will score the Principal (268) constructed-response questions?

To be eligible to score Principal (268) constructed-response questions, a person must hold an active certification or license as a K–12 school principal or equivalent, have at least three years recent or current experience as a principal, assistant principal, superintendent or assistant superintendent, and pass a scoring certification test demonstrating the content knowledge and accuracy needed to score the Principal (268) constructed-response questions. Recent experience is defined as no less than 3 years out of the position. ETS will be seeking qualified applicants from Texas educational leaders beginning in the summer of 2018.

5. How will the Principal (268) constructed-response (CR) questions be scored?

The Principal (268) constructed-response (CR) questions will be scored holistically using a rubric that is currently under development and will be made available in the preparation manual. The rubric will provide the criteria and descriptions of performance at different levels that generalize across all four CR tasks. As well, an example of each of the four constructed-response questions with sample responses and annotations will be provided in the preparation manual.

6. What types of questions are included on the 068 and 268 Principal tests?

- Discrete items are included on the 068 and 268 tests. Discrete items are single, stand-alone questions that are unrelated to any other question on the test.
- Cluster sets are included on the 068 and 268 tests. Cluster sets are questions that begin with a scenario or stimulus and are followed by 2–6 questions related to the scenario.
- Decision sets are included on the 068 test but will not be included on the 268 test. Decision sets are questions that begin with a scenario and 1–2 questions. Then additional information is presented to develop the story line, and additional questions are presented to the candidate.
- Technology-enhanced questions are included on the 068 and 268 tests. Technology-enhanced questions include answer grid, drag-and-drop ordering, matching, multiple-select multiple-choice options, and video stimulus.

7. 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)

8. 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.

9. What are the content areas that have been separated to form the new domains in Principal (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.

10. Will all six domains on the Principal (268) test have a constructed-response question?

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

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. After reviewing the TEA priority statements in the Principal (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.

14. 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).

15. When will the Principal (268) test preparation manual be available online?

Fall 2018.

16. What materials are available to candidates preparing to take the Principal (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 Principal (268) test.

17. What is the average testing time for the 068 test? Will the testing time for the 268 be similar?

For the 068 test, candidates need about 2 ½ hours of the total 5-hour testing time to complete all the questions. For the 268 test, we estimate that candidates will need to carefully plan their time and use all 5 hours permitted. With the addition of the constructed-response questions and additional stimuli in selected-response questions, candidates should plan to manage their time carefully.

18. What is the relationship between the Principal (268) test and teacher and principal evaluation systems used in Texas?

The content included on the Principal (268) test is purposefully reflective of the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) and the Texas Principal Evaluation and Support System (T-PESS). This alignment should help candidates recognize the interconnectedness of their daily work in schools, the certification process, and the Texas evaluation systems.

19. Will there be a scoring rubric for the constructed-response items for the Principal (268) test?

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

20. Will there be a printed supplemental booklet of the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) included on the Principal (268) test?

No. A printed supplemental booklet is no longer needed. However, multiple questions will include data from parts of the TAPR and other assessment sources.

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

December 31, 2018

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. Will the free offering of the Principal (268) test in December 2018, January 2019, and February 2019 count toward a candidate's five maximum attempts?

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

26. When is the last time a candidate can take Principal (268) and be exempt from PASL?

The candidate must have passed the Principal (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.

27. 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 that the Principal (268) test will have quarterly administration windows in July, October, January, and April.

28. 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 Principal (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.

29. With respect to the Principal (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 Principal (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.

30. How will the new principal certification assessments fit into the timeline of a principal certification program?

Both the Principal (268) and PASL are intended to be summative assessments of a candidate's 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. Based on preparation program requirements, internship timeframes, and administration dates for both the PASL and Principal (268), candidates may need to be flexible in planning which assessment they take first. No matter which test candidates take, the 068, the 268, or the 268 and PASL, a candidate will have 5 attempts to pass each assessment individually.