



## Illinois Association of School Administrators

*Maximum Educational Success for All Students*

### **Voltz shares tips for evaluation training**

With the September 1 deadline to be "pre-qualified" to conduct teacher and principal performance evaluations under the new Illinois law fast approaching, Dr. Richard Voltz has a few tips for those going through the Teachscape training.

"The training is challenging, especially Module 2 (Teachscape), but as I went through it I noted some things that were helpful to me," said Voltz, IASA Associate Director for Professional Development. "I think administrators might find these tips useful."

Voltz's suggestions include:

1. Enlarge the screen for the videos and expand the frame for the movie to fit the entire width of the computer screen. Seeing detail is difficult in some of the videos, some of which were shot in 360-degree format.
2. Wear headphones to better hear the audio on the video. This especially helps when listening to the students.
3. Record evidence notes on an iPad, laptop or other device then email the evidence notes to yourself and paste into the box in the Teachscape system when completing the practice videos.
4. The participant should spend the majority of time looking at the practice observation videos, especially if the participant has limited time. It is possible to get access to more practice videos if the participant contacts Growth Through Learning (GTL).
5. When doing the practice videos, a good score is 6 of 8 correct.
6. You can re-score the practice videos and it is recommended that you view the practice video a second time if your score is less than 5.
7. Print out the scoring summary when you complete the practice videos, read the master scorer comments and synthesize the results. When you find evidence of your scoring not matching the master scorer then go back and review that Domain/Component in the training materials.
8. Allow up to four hours to take the Teachscape assessment for each stage. Take the assessment in a private place with no interruptions. Teachscape allows six hours to take each assessment. However, if there is no input when taking the assessment for a 60-minute period, the program times out and the user fails.
9. Stage I assessment has 50 total questions; 20 are multiple choice consisting of

questions about evidence, bias, interpretation and distinguish between rating levels. There are two 20-minute videos and the user scores eight questions on components 2 and 3. The user also answers seven follow-up multiple choice questions.

10. Stage II contains 45 questions and three 20-minute videos. The user scores eight questions on components 2 and 3. The user then answers seven follow-up multiple choice questions.
11. There is no immediate feedback when you complete the assessment except for a notice that the participant either passed or failed.
12. Illinois administrators receive ISBE Administrative Academy credit for successfully completing either the principal evaluation or teacher evaluation training.
13. You do get partial credit on scoring videos. For example, if the user scores a "3" on the assessment video and the master trainers score a "4," the user will get partial credit. In addition, the multiple correct answer questions also provide for partial credit.

"As we have said, while the training is challenging, it is doable," Voltz said. Voltz welcomed additional tips from others who have gone through the training. Those tips can be communicated to Voltz at [rvoltz@iasaedu.org](mailto:rvoltz@iasaedu.org).