



Commission on Teacher Credentialing

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Office of the Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 2020

TO: Deans of Education
Directors of Teacher Education
Leaders of Educator Preparation Programs

FROM: Tine Sloan, Commission Chair
Mary Vixie Sandy, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on Credential Candidates

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the anticipated impact of school and university closures on candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs. We are particularly concerned about candidates' ability to complete clinical practice and performance assessment requirements during this academic year, and are looking for ways to mitigate this situation.

What we know

- The [California Department of Public Health](#) has a dedicated website with recommendations for colleges, universities, and the general public regarding potential closures. The situation is evolving, daily, and recommendations regarding meetings, gatherings, and travel are being updated regularly.
- Many college and university campuses are moving immediately to provide classroom instruction online - some campuses for a specified number of weeks, others through their spring term. Some educator preparation programs are continuing with clinical practice in the TK-12 schools that are open, even if coursework has moved to an online platform. Other institutions have removed all student teachers/candidates from schools for the next several weeks.
- An increasing number of K-12 schools are closing early for spring break or in response to outbreaks in their communities. It is impossible to predict the length or extent of school closures, but this situation will likely impact clinical practice and the ability to complete performance assessments for some candidates. EdWeek has published a [map of school closures](#) that may be a useful resource.

Next Steps

- The Commission will be reaching out to programs in order to determine the best options for a candidate to meet credential requirements if a candidate cannot finish clinical practice *and/or* their Teaching/Administrator Performance Assessment due to interruption in their clinical practice this spring.
- The Commission will examine all viable options and their implications for candidates, programs and school districts as expeditiously as possible in order to be prepared for a variety of scenarios that may impact candidate completion.
- As programs begin to think about a candidate's ability to meet requirements of preparation related to clinical practice, the Commission would like to provide further information specifically regarding the 600 hours of clinical practice required for student teachers. Further information about how the 600-hour requirement can be met is found in the Commission's [Clinical Practice Guidance](#). We encourage programs to use this resource in evaluating and providing feasible alternatives for candidates to meet this requirement.
- The Commission is also working closely with Evaluation Systems of Pearson, the contractor who manages CalTPA and EdTPA, to determine how best to support candidates who have registered for a performance assessment and are experiencing a significant disruption in their field placements. As we determine pathways for candidates to meet specific assessment requirements we will communicate those to the field through the program coordinator as well as the Deans of Education and directors of educator preparation programs.
- Questions and suggestions about clinical practice or performance assessment may be directed to the following email address: ClinicalQuestions@ctc.ca.gov.

It is our intent that all candidates who are on target to complete preparation and earn a credential this year will be able to do so. Any flexibility we can legally provide to support this goal will be offered. For candidates who are unable to meet all requirements during this academic year due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are considering any and all legal pathways to allow them to begin teaching or providing services this fall and complete clinical practice and performance assessments during their first year of teaching or service. As we know more, we will be in communication with you. As always, we welcome your thoughts and feedback.

Thank you for partnering with the Commission as we navigate these extraordinary times.