



## **Guidance for Field Experience in Educator Preparation Programs on COVID-19 March 20, 2020**

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the 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. This document focuses on flexibility within clinical practice; a separate guidance document focused on performance assessments is under development.

### **Field Experience and Clinical Practice**

Preparation programs are required by the Commission to ensure that all candidates complete field-based learning experiences and demonstrate the performance expectations prior to recommendation for the credential. Commission-approved programs must work with their partner school districts to implement the clinical practice hours. The Commission encourages programs to think broadly and creatively about ways to provide opportunities to candidates for clinical practice given the current challenges.

### ***Clinical practice takes place in an educational setting. If the schools are not open, what other options are possible?***

In order to provide flexibility for candidates during this time, clinical practice can take place through online learning instruction, remote instruction, or at alternate locations or as part of an extended school year or school day. Virtual reality or simulation teaching settings can also qualify for a limited portion of a candidate's clinical practice if the program determines the activities activity to be appropriate. Video or other examples of effective teaching can be viewed, analyzed and discussed with experienced educators as part of a candidate's clinical practice. The program should make note of exceptions in the candidate's file that occur and how the exception was addressed for each candidate.

***What criteria must be met for the alternative clinical practice settings?***

Clinical practice must be under the supervision of an experienced educator: the program supervisor and/or the district-employed supervisor. Other experienced educators may also work with candidates—think about a system of support rather than specifically a program supervisor and one district-employed supervisor. A teacher candidate should be planning instruction, delivering instruction, reflecting on instruction, or analyzing student work with the advice and guidance of an experienced educator.

Candidates for other types of credentials should be practicing the knowledge and skills identified in the set of program standards and performance expectations under the supervision and guidance of one or more experienced educators.

***What happens if a candidate cannot meet their required clinical practice hours even with the use of alternative settings?***

The Commission is working on a type of conditional license, such as a variable term waiver, that would allow candidates to be employed who have made satisfactory progress in the preparation program but due to COVID-19 were not able to complete all clinical hours to begin practice in the fall. This would allow the candidate more time to complete the program while employed as an educator. More information on this will be shared as soon as it is available.

Additional questions? Email [ClinicalQuestions@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:ClinicalQuestions@ctc.ca.gov)