



Commission on Teacher Credentialing

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Office of the Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 17, 2020

TO: California Credential Candidates

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

We at the Commission on Teacher Credentialing know the angst that COVID-19 is creating for all of you. We write to you now to convey where we are and what we know.

If you are a credential candidate who cannot finish your credential requirements as a result of COVID-19, we are seeking solutions that will allow you to defer requirements so you can be hired into your profession this fall. Many of you lost out on opportunities to prepare as you had hoped for this spring. At their meeting next week, the Commission will be considering solutions that integrate the supported practice of induction with performance assessments (TPA, CalAPA, as well as RICA) and any other targeted supports you and your program determine you need. We are actively engaged in developing and refining this approach with your programs, with districts, induction programs and state agencies and will have more information available after the Commission meeting.

The Commission will also be considering needed adjustments to program standards to allow your program and school faculty to use their expertise to determine coursework and clinical practice adaptations that will prepare you as best we can in these circumstances. We all acknowledge that you, the 2020 cohort, will bring unique experiences to your new practice as teachers and other service providers in our schools.

Some candidates in educator preparation have been asking whether significant components of their preparation can be waived – permanently – in response to the COVID-19 situation. The Commission has an obligation to you, to students, to families, and to schools to ensure that you are prepared to serve our TK-12 students and schools well. A credential carries the weight of preparation and serves you and all stakeholders with the assurance of that preparation. Each of you are developing your unique practice as educators. This spring, your program faculty will be working with those of you who are entering the teaching profession to create your Individual Development Plan—as they have for many cohorts before you—that provides the foundation upon which you and your induction mentor will plan what you need during your first year of practice. By providing you with additional time and support, our goal is to ensure that you receive the preparation necessary for you to thrive in the profession you are entering.

The response to and impact of COVID-19 changes with great frequency, in every aspect of our lives and work. We commit to you that we will keep our eye on needed flexibility and support for you and your program as you complete your preparation and move into practice. Please don't lose heart! Your future students need you, and though this is a challenging time, we are confident that what you learn in this extraordinary moment will have an important impact on your practice throughout your career. We will be providing your programs with updates as we know them and wish you well as you move forward.