



**Preparation Program Support for Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) and Speech-Language Pathology Candidates Including Candidates Employed on a Variable Term Waiver (PS-VTW)
April 29, 2020**

The Commission supports preparation programs to effectively work with candidates seeking a PPS or SLP credential in California. Program standards outline programmatic requirements and candidate competencies that must be fulfilled prior to a candidate being recommended for a PPS or SLP credential. For candidates enrolled in PPS/SLP programs in spring 2020, the pathway to fulfilling program requirements and candidate competencies has changed. The Commission took action at the April 2020 meeting to modify certain programmatic requirements that are within its purview, clarifying program flexibility in implementing other requirements during the COVID-19 school closures. This document outlines the unique support that will be needed for these candidates to earn their PPS/SLP credential.

Of particular note, the Commission authorized the issuance of a [Variable Term Waiver \(PS-VTW\)](#) that will enable teacher candidates who were on track to complete their program during 2019-20, to secure employment and complete requirements (clinical practice). Candidates who were on track to earn a services credential but unable to complete preparation in the spring or summer of 2020 will need to work with their programs to complete their credential requirements in 2020-21.

PPS and SLP Preparation Program Responsibility:

- Identify and document areas of program flexibility aligned with Commission and National Organization guidelines during the COVID-19 school closures.
- Clinical practice requirements must ensure that each candidate meets the Title 5 requirements for the credential ([Appendix](#)).
- Provide clear options to candidates regarding how to complete the remaining requirements necessary for completion of the program prior to September 2020.
- Apply for a Variable Term Waiver (PS-VTW) on behalf of affected candidates—those who have not fulfilled the clinical practice or coursework of their program requirements. The PS-

VTW will allow candidates to seek and obtain employment prior to the issuance of a PPS or SLP credential while they complete the requirements of the PPS/SLP program.

- Clearly outline the responsibilities of the candidate and the program during the time in which the candidate is serving on a PS-VTW.
- Provide clear expectations to program supervisors, in understanding their role in providing support and guidance as candidates complete the requirements necessary to complete the program.
- Identify a faculty/supervisor who will hold an in-person or virtual office hour at least bi-weekly for candidates that have questions about their clinical practice and completion of program requirements that are best answered by the PPS/SLP program.
- Identify a faculty/supervisor who will respond to questions in a timely manner from PPS/SLP candidates who have received a PS-VTW and may have questions about their progress towards program completion.
- Set up a technology based professional learning community for their candidates to interact synchronously or asynchronously to share questions, support each other, and problem solve.
- Maintain communication with leadership in districts where your PS-VTW candidates are employed. This relationship will allow coordination of the ongoing support for the candidate between the preliminary program and the induction program.

Commission Responsibility:

- Provide, archive, and post explanatory webinars on the Commission's [YouTube channel](#) and share information through the PSD e-News including:
 - Flexibility options for preparation programs available as a result of COVID-19; and
 - What the clinical practice supervisor must consider as they support the candidate.

Candidate Responsibility:

- Maintain affiliation with their PPS/SLP preparation program until the completion of all Clear program requirements are met in order to receive the recommendation for the Clear credential.
- Request a PS-VTW from the PPS/SLP preparation program if COVID-19 interrupted completion of the clinical practice requirement.
- Complete the remaining requirements of the initial preparation program during the first year of employment on a PS-VTW. Contact the PPS/SLP preparation program with questions about completion of program requirements.

Employer Responsibility:

- Identify a program staff member to maintain records of the requirements each PS-VTW holder must fulfill to complete the requirements for their PPS/SLP program.

Maintain partnerships with each PS-VTW employee's PPS/SLP program to ensure adequate support and accurate information is provided to these candidates.

Appendix

School Counseling-Title 5 section 80632.2.

- (b) Field practice shall be required of all candidates.
 - (1) Field practice shall be in the knowledges and skills provided in subdivisions (a)(1) through (6) of this section.
 - (2) Field practice shall be at least four-hundred fifty (450) clock hours in duration, of which a minimum of three-hundred (300) clock hours shall be in a school setting, in direct contact with pupils assigned to the credential candidate by the college/university instructor and field supervisor.
 - (3) Field practice by credential candidates shall be under the supervision of an experienced practitioner (who holds a Pupil Personnel Services credential) approved jointly by the college/university and the school district administration.
 - (4) The field practice assignment shall be provided in at least two of three settings (elementary school, middle school and/or high school) and shall include a minimum of 100 clock hours at each setting.
 - (5) At least one-hundred (100) clock hours of field practice shall be with at least ten pupils (individually and/or in a group) of racial/ethnic background different from that of the credential candidate.

School Psychology-Title 5 section 80632.4

- (b) Field practice shall be required of all candidates.
 - (1) Field practice shall be in the knowledges and skills provided in subdivisions (a)(1) through (12) of this section.
 - (2) Field practice shall be at least five-hundred forty (540) clock hours in duration, of which a minimum of three-hundred eighty (380) clock hours shall be in a school setting, in direct contact with pupils assigned to the credential candidate by the college/university instructor and field supervisor.
 - (3) Field practice by credential candidates shall be under the supervision of an experienced practitioner (who holds a Pupil Personnel Services credential) approved jointly by the college/university and the school district administration.
 - (4) The field practice assignment shall be provided in at least two of three settings (elementary school, middle school and/or high school) and shall include a minimum of 100 clock hours at each setting.
 - (5) At least one-hundred (100) clock hours of field practice shall be with at least ten pupils (individually and/or in a group) of a racial/ethnic background different from that of the credential candidate.

School Social Work-Title 5 section 80632.3

- (b) Field practice shall be required of all candidates.
 - (1) Field practice shall be in the knowledge and skills provided in subdivisions (a) (1) through (7) of this section.
 - (2) Field practice shall be at least four-hundred fifty (450) clock hours in duration, of which a minimum of three hundred (300) clock hours shall be in a school setting in direct contact

with pupils assigned to the credential candidate by the college/university instructor and field supervisor.

- (3) Field practice by credential candidates shall be under the supervision of an experienced practitioner (who holds a Pupil Personnel Services credential) approved jointly by the college/university and the school district administration.
- (4) The field practice assignment shall be provided in at least two of three settings (elementary school, middle school and/or high school) and shall include a minimum of 100 clock hours at each setting.
- (5) At least one-hundred (100) clock hours of field practice shall be with at least ten pupils (individually and/or in a group) of a racial/ethnic background different from that of the credential candidate.

Speech-Language Pathology- No specific Title 5 requirements for clinical practice.