

Updated Guidance for Field-Based Experiences in 2020-2021

We recognize that in these times, EPPs are rapidly developing, iterating, and updating their content and approaches to providing the best preparation for teachers in Texas while still working to stay within the requirements defined by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). We appreciate being able to support you in this effort. As you work towards building solutions, we would greatly encourage you to learn from other EPPs in the community and to engage with your EPP colleagues as you innovate in this rapidly changing time.

We wanted to provide some information specifically related to Field-Based Experience Requirements.

Currently, waivers from the Governor's office and forthcoming SBEC language allow for candidates to complete the 15 hours described in 19 TAC §228.35(e)(1)(A) in virtual settings. This means that all 30 hours of field-based experiences may be completed in virtual settings. While the waiver does allow for the hours in (A) to be completed in virtual school settings, it does not speak to the nature of the activities with which the candidates are engaging.

Per the rule text, for the hours in (A), candidates should be actively engaging, rather than passively engaging, which would be allowed in (B). We recognize that this engagement will likely look different in a virtual setting than in a face to face setting. We also note that the rule does not state that candidates need to engage with K-12 students in real time – rather, the text is limited to stating that the candidates need to be actively engaged in instructional or educational activities. This would allow for the use of asynchronous or previously recorded video to be used for these purposes.

For clarification, neither the waiver from the Governor's office nor the forthcoming SBEC language suspend the requirements in 19 TAC §228.35(e)(1)(A)(i) – (v). While videos can be used for these hours, these requirements are still in place.

For clarification, the requirement in 19 TAC §228.35(e)(1)(A)(iv) does not require that candidates must complete these hours specifically in the grade level and content for which they are currently pursuing certification. Rather, it sets out requirements for the nature of the activities being observed—that the classroom or instructional setting involved has a specific content area or grade-level of instruction— and does not allow field-based experiences to take place during after-school sports activities, clubs, or non-instructional after-school childcare activities.

For clarification, the requirement in 19 TAC §228.35(e)(1)(A)(i) does require that the setting, be it in a video or face-to-face, be an accredited public school or other school approved by TEA for this purpose. Please note that the 15 hours in 19 TAC §228.35(e)(1)(B) *does not* have this stipulation. So only the 15 hours described in 19 TAC §228.35(e)(1)(A) are mandated to use TEA-approved settings.

For clarification, the 15 clock hours described in 19 TAC §228.35(e)(1)(A) are not specifically video run-time, but rather the time in which the candidates are actively engaged in instructional or educational activities that involve actual students and authentic school settings with content or grade-level specific classrooms or instructional settings.

While TEA does not retain a library of classroom videos, we have made available for EPPs and their candidates [Texas TLAC resources](#), which include approved videos and activities that could be used to fulfill a portion of the requirements in 19 TAC §228.35(e)(1)(A). We also note that accessing the virtual

classrooms of schools meeting this semester could also be used to fulfill these requirements. These are two examples of solutions to address these concerns. We also encourage EPPs to consider how they may introduce flexibility into program plans for candidates to make use of settings for FBEs that may become available in the forthcoming weeks or semesters.

The flexibility noted above is made available due to the waiver and forthcoming language that allow for these FBEs to take place in virtual settings. We know that EPPs and candidates are excited to return to completing these FBEs in person in schools when conditions permit.

Thank you again for all your work preparing teachers in Texas.