



Educator Preparation Program Webinar (UPDATED)

COVID-19 Disaster Declaration and EPP Implications

March 25, 2020

Thank you for taking time to join today's informational call.

- For clarity, attendees will be muted during the call
- We will monitor questions that are raised in the chat and follow up as we can with further communication
- Today's meeting will be recorded

As we've heard from individuals, programs, and organizations over the past week, we have been affirmed that **we continue to share the same goals:**

- Ensuring the safety of our students, both PK-12 and teacher candidates
- Ensuring we have a well-prepared teacher workforce to meet the demands of the districts we serve across the state

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) continues to work with the Office of the Governor, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to coordinate the state's response to COVID-19.

Context:

- Public health
- Feeding kids
- Instructional continuity for K-12
- Serving special populations
- Student assessment

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Support and Guidance Website](#)

Governor Issued Waivers regarding Educator Preparation

Governor Abbott has issued specific waivers for those completing

- clinical teaching during spring 2020,
- engaging in an internship or a practicum during spring 2020, or
- completing field-based experience requirements in spring or summer 2020

Clinical Teaching FAQs

With schools and districts closed or moving online, how can our candidates who are completing clinical teaching meet the required number of days? (UPDATED)

In accordance with Governor Abbott's waiver, candidates completing clinical teaching during spring 2020 who meet the following criteria will be considered to have successfully met requirements for clinical teaching:

- Completed at least half of the required days of clinical teaching,
 - 35 days for full-day assignments or
 - 70 days for half-day assignments
- Demonstrated proficiency in each of the educator standards for their assignments (to be determined by the preparation program), and
- Received a recommendation from their field supervisor and cooperating teacher that the candidate should be recommended for a standard certificate.



How can my candidates who were in clinical teaching this semester but were not able to meet the above criteria still qualify? (UPDATED)

In accordance with Governor Abbott's waiver, the requirements for candidates' clinical teaching experiences to be completed in an actual school setting are also waived.

This means that these candidates may complete any additional requirement by:

- supporting their cooperating teacher through non-traditional means and
- may demonstrate proficiency based on alternative arrangements established by the preparation program, such as **simulated, remote, virtual, or video classroom experiences and reflection**



How can EPPs provide the required number of formal observations for candidates?

In accordance with Governor Abbott's waiver, all requirements related to **field supervision of candidates** have been waived, including the number, duration, timing, and format of the observation.

Internship FAQs



With schools and districts closed or moving online, how can our candidates who are completing internships on an Intern or Probationary certification complete their internship?

Per 19 TAC §228.35(e)(2)(B), an internship is, at minimum, one full school year for the classroom teacher.

As defined in 19 TAC §228.2(30), a school year may be **defined by a particular public or private school**. This means that as districts adapt the definition of a school year based on the situation, the school year associated with active internships will also adapt.

Because interns are district employees and subject to the requirements of that district, what qualifies as a full year will be dependent on what the district establishes as its modified calendar.

Interns who complete the year in the district, even if shortened, will have completed the year according to the rule. Further, for candidates who began their internship in January, the completion of this semester according to the district's schedule will count as half of the year.



How can EPPs provide the required number of formal observations for interns?

In accordance with Governor Abbott's waiver, all requirements related to field supervision of candidates have been waived, including the number, duration, timing, and format of the observation.

Practicums for Certificates other than Classroom Teacher FAQs

How can candidates complete the required hours for their practicums? (UPDATED)

In accordance with Governor Abbott's waiver, candidates engaging in a practicum during spring 2020 who meet the following criteria will be considered to have successfully met requirements for the practicum:

- Completed at least half of the required hours of the practicum (80 hours)
- Demonstrated proficiency in each of the educator standards for their assignments (to be determined by the preparation program), and
- Received a recommendation from their field supervisor and site supervisor that the candidate should be recommended for a standard certificate.



How can EPPs provide the required number of formal observations for candidates completing practicums?

In accordance with Governor Abbott's waiver, all requirements related to field supervision of candidates have been waived, including the number, duration, timing, and format of the observation.

EPP Accountability FAQs



With disruptions in educator preparation program operations, will the Accountability System for Educator Preparation (ASEP) remain in effect for the 2019-2020 accountability year?

TEA will monitor the situation related to accountability and plans to make appropriate recommendations to the State Board for Educator Certification to allow flexibility for EPPs to meet the unique needs of their candidates, institutions, and partner LEAs during this crisis.

Given that any ratings would not be calculated until much later in the year, there is time for SBEC to follow the rulemaking schedule and make changes before programs have any impact related to accountability.



Are the principal surveys for April to June still on schedule or will they be canceled due to the COVID-19 illness?

Governor Abbott has waived the requirements for principals to complete the surveys.



Is the teacher survey related to educator preparation still happening this spring given COVID-19?

Governor Abbott has waived the requirements for teachers to complete the surveys.

Field Experience FAQs



How can candidates complete the 15 clock-hours of field-based experiences on a school campus if the schools are closed?

Governor Abbott has waived the requirement that 15 clock-hours of field-based experiences must be completed on a school campus for those completing field-based experience requirements **in spring or summer 2020**.

All field-based experiences may be completed by use of electronic transmission or other video or technology-based method.

Upcoming Communication

Educator Testing and Certification Questions

We recognize that programs and candidates have many questions and concerns regarding educator testing and certification requirements and timelines. The primary themes of the questions we have received thus far include:

- Options for candidates pursuing standard certification who have not yet met all testing requirements
- Testing vendor's capacity to meet the testing demand once testing centers reopen

We are actively working to compile an FAQ document to address these and other questions we have received, and we will share that information in a forthcoming communication.

Next steps

- As additional information is available, we will schedule meetings to share that guidance and receive additional feedback.



Thank you

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