



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Guidance Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19): Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Clinical Experience/Fieldwork Requirements

April 6, 2020

Background

As a part of the District of Columbia's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is offering this guidance document to Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) regarding clinical experience/fieldwork requirements.

Scope

This document contains guidance to EPPs regarding clinical experience/fieldwork requirements for state licensure candidates during periods of approved closures of the District of Columbia's EPPs, pre-K–12 public and public charter schools based on changed operating status due to public health emergency. This guidance applies to all EPPs, both those with Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation and those with state approval.

Date Issued

This guidance was issued on April 6, 2020, and will remain in effect until further notice.

Guidance

In response to the rapidly evolving situation and the current operating status of the District of Columbia's EPPs, pre-K–12 public and public charter schools caused by COVID-19, EPPs may modify their educator preparation programs to allow EPPs to continue to provide meaningful opportunities for candidates to apply the content and pedagogy knowledge they have gained in academic settings and prior field experiences. Continuation of such meaningful opportunities ensures that:

1. candidates demonstrate satisfactory program completion and thus, eligibility for a District of Columbia educator credential, and
2. currently approved EPPs and programs continue to meet CAEP and/or state standards for clinical experience/fieldwork.

Generally, candidates must adhere to all policies of the EPP in which they have enrolled, the local education agencies (LEAs) in which they have been placed for clinical experiences/fieldwork, OSSE, and state and federal health agencies.

Requirements for Modifying the Clinical Experience

As necessitated by extended periods of clinical experience/fieldwork site closure, EPPs may provide virtual learning opportunities, implement alternative assignments and instruction, or arrange temporary placements in other appropriate settings. Educator preparation providers should work with partner LEAs and schools so that candidates continue to have meaningful opportunities to apply the content and pedagogy knowledge they have gained in academic settings and prior field experiences. These opportunities include designing lessons and instructional units, selecting and implementing instructional strategies, teaching lessons and content, assessing learning to evaluate student progress and inform instructional decisions, creating supportive learning environments, and managing the classroom effectively.

The following list contains recommendations for program modifications:

- Change in EPP coursework delivery mode;
- Change in clinical experience/fieldwork delivery to students;
- Change in candidate teaching observations/evaluations delivery mode;
- Change in candidate/mentor teacher feedback meetings delivery mode;
- Change from letter grade to pass/fail or credit/no credit for courses; and
- Other programmatic changes that are essential to the success of candidates and the program.

Options for Extended Engagement

OSSE urges EPPs to consider the following options for candidates they believe may be successful with additional time and support:

1. Extended clinical experience; or
2. Assignment of grade of Incomplete until the candidate can return to the clinical setting.

Program Modifications for School Service Providers

EPPs may make comparable emergency provisions for clinical experiences in educator preparation programs leading to initial certification in school service provider fields. The following fields qualify as school service providers:

- Reading specialist;
- Audiologist;
- School counselor;
- School-based librarian;
- School psychologist;
- School social worker; and
- School speech pathologist.

Written Notification of Program Modification

Educator preparation providers that modify the clinical experience according to this guidance must provide written notification of program modifications to OSSE through electronic submission of the form below to Joelle Lastica Hlava at Joelle.LasticaHlava@dc.gov within fifteen business days of the issuance of this guidance.

As this is an evolving situation, there is a continuing obligation for EPPs to keep OSSE informed of any additional program modifications made after the initial written notification via email communication to Joelle Lastica Hlava.

Questions

If you have questions relating to this guidance, contact Lastica Hlava at Joelle.LasticaHlava@dc.gov.

For resources and more information on the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.

EPP Program Modification Plan

Please provide the information below for your EPP and programs modified. Multiple programs at an EPP may have the same modification and may be described in one modification plan. If additional space is needed, please submit additional program modifications as a separate attachment, as a table in a Word document.

EPP Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)

EPP Head: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Email: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Phone: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Program Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)

1. Brief description of program modification:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

2. Brief description of how program modification continues to provide meaningful opportunities for candidates to apply the content and pedagogy knowledge they have gained in academic settings and prior field experiences. Please align these opportunities to the Clinical Experience/Fieldwork standard ([CAEP standard 2](#) or [OSSE EPP standard 3](#)) under which the EPP was previously approved:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

3. Effective date and anticipated duration of program modification:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

4. How many programs will be impacted by this program modification? [Click here to enter text.](#)

5. How many candidates will be impacted by this program modification? [Click here to enter text.](#)