Preparing for AY2020-21: COVID-19 state teacher-preparation policy

COVID-19 has affected every aspect of life as we know it – including teacher preparation. To track what is happening across all 50 states and D.C., we developed the COVID-19 Teacher Preparation Policy Database in April 2020. With a new school year quickly approaching, states will likely need to update policy decisions and guidance previously issued. We will continue to update the tool regularly, drawing attention to extensions and new guidance issued for AY2020-21. Please note that information contained in the database should be considered advisory and states should be consulted directly for definitive information.

Below are examples of recent updates. The database was last updated on August 9, 2020.

California

- **New Program Entry Policy:** On June 10, 2020, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing suspended the basic skills requirement (CBEST and CSET) needed for program entry for candidates who are unable to complete the assessment between March 19 and August 31, 2020. The assessment must now be completed prior to recommendation for a primary credential.

Georgia

- **New Clinical Policy:** On July 1, 2020, the Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) issued new, flexible guidance for teacher-preparation programs placing candidates in field-based experiences in traditional, blended, and fully remote learning environments.
- **New Exit Assessment Policy:** On June 3, the GaPSC voted to remove the edTPA requirement.

Illinois

- **New Clinical Policy:** On June 18, 2020 the General Assembly passed SB1569 that states student teaching and internships should occur virtually this fall if the state is still under Disaster Proclamations.

Massachusetts

- **New Exit Assessment Policy:** July 2020 guidance requires that all candidates complete all exit assessments for SY2020-21. However, the guidance does allow EPPs flexibility to determine how evidence (e.g. observation data) for performance assessments is gathered.
Ohio

- **New Licensure Policy:** July 2020 guidance creates a ‘one-year interim teaching license’ whereby candidates who meet all other requirements, are completing their teaching programs, and hired by a district are allowed to teach in a core teaching subject.

Nevada

- **New Exit Assessment Policy:** June 22, 2020 guidance allows for teachers unable to complete required assessments to be issued a temporary emergency certificate for AY20-21; applicants must complete exit assessment exams within 2 years. Expires October 20, 2020.

South Carolina

- **New Clinical Policy:** July 2020 guidance asks EPPs and schools to prioritize the placement of candidates in their culminating experience. Candidates are expected to complete their requirements in the same fashion as their cooperating teacher/school-based mentor. For example, if the mentor is teaching in a hybrid setting, the teacher candidates must also student teach in a hybrid model.

Tennessee

- **New Clinical Policy:** July 24, 2020 the State Board of Education finalized guidance allowing EPPs the flexibility to design clinical experiences to meet the moment. Experiences can include virtual experiences and non-school based experiences. EPPs will be expected to submit a plan detailing how they are redesigning clinical experiences. The plan will be developed and submitted to TDOE.

Texas

- **New Clinical Policy:** On June 11, 2020, the State Board of Educator Certification proposed rule changes to allow additional flexibility for programs to help candidates meet state clinical, practicum, internship, and other field-based experience requirements when they are, at least partially, completed virtually. This rule will be considered for adoption at the July meeting.

West Virginia

- **New Clinical Policy:** August 4, 2020 guidance clarifies that up to 50% of clinical experiences can be completed virtually. EPPs must align their experiences to the approaches being taken by the partner school district. The policy also allows candidates to progress to licensure if they do not meet state requirements.