



DEANS FOR IMPACT

The impact of COVID-19 on state teacher-preparation policy: Fall 2020

In Spring 2020 we developed the [COVID-19 Teacher Preparation Policy Database](#) as a public resource that tracks what is happening across all 50 states and D.C. With the 2020-2021 school year underway, states continue to revise state teacher-preparation policy to address the impact of the pandemic on the teacher workforce.

This database was last updated on October 13, 2020. While we intend to update this tool regularly, please note that the policies described here are in flux and may have changed – this information should be considered advisory.

*As of October 13, 2020, 24 states had extended and/or updated previously issued guidance for teacher-preparation programs and their candidates to navigate the uncertainties of the fall semester. Here, we present a high-level summary of **what is happening in those 24 states** across four key areas: licensure, clinical requirements, entry and exit assessments, and program approval.*

Licensure

- Five of the 24 have created **new emergency waivers and/or certificates**. For example, Ohio [created](#) a one-year interim teaching license whereby candidates who meet all other requirements, are completing their teaching programs, and hired by an Ohio school, are allowed to teach in a core subject area.
- Three of the 24 have [extended](#) the use of **previously adopted** emergency waivers and/or certificates.

Clinical requirements

- Fourteen of the 24 states are **maintaining existing requirements**, but maintaining flexibility as to how candidates meet them (such as through remote learning).
- Three states are **conditionally waiving** clinical requirements. For example, West Virginia [guidance](#) clarifies that up to 50% of clinical experiences can be completed virtually. EPPs must align these experiences to the approaches being taken by the partner school district. The policy also clarifies that candidates can still be recommended for licensure without completing the 12-week minimum for student teaching, as long as they demonstrate proficiency, as recommended by their university supervisor and the cooperating teacher in the school. West Virginia is also waiving portions of clinical requirements for candidates that serve as substitutes and virtual teachers during the pandemic.

Assessment (entry and exit):

- **Entry Assessment**
 - Four states have **conditionally waived** entry requirements, with the expectation that candidates will fulfill them in the future. For example, California is [allowing](#) candidates to complete the assessment prior to recommendation for a primary credential.

- Alabama recently eliminated Praxis CORE as a basic skills requirement.
- Georgia and Pennsylvania are not waiving entry requirements.
- Missouri is following assessment vendor guidance.
- **Exit Assessment**
 - Eight states are *conditionally waiving* exit assessment requirements.
 - Three states are not waiving performance exit assessments. However, Massachusetts is allowing EPPs flexibility to determine how evidence (e.g. observation data) for performance assessments is gathered.
 - Illinois is extending edTPA waivers for candidates scheduled to complete the edTPA in the fall semester.

Program Approval/Renewal

- North Carolina adopted revisions to program accountability systems. The temporary modifications of teacher-preparation policies is in effect from May 4, 2020, to June 30, 2021. These policy modifications can be found in Section II of TCED-013 and are further outlined [HERE](#).
- Texas will continue to collect relevant data in their Accountability System for Educator Preparation. However, program outcomes will not be consequential for AY 2019-2020 and AY 2020-2021.