




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Deans, Directors and Certification Officers of Educator Preparation Programs

FROM: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education 

DATE: March 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Temporary Flexibilities - Educator Preparation Programs

In accordance with Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order 7C, and due to extended school closures during the COVID-19 Pandemic, I am providing guidance for the extension of flexibilities for all candidates currently enrolled in approved Connecticut Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) whose student teaching and clinical placements have been impacted as a result of COVID-19.

Student Teaching Placements, Clinical Internships and Field Work:

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is temporarily waiving length of placement requirements and any hour requirements associated with opportunities provided through Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) for student teaching, clinical internships and/or fieldwork in our public schools. This applies to student teaching as defined by 10-145d-8 (student teaching), 10-145d-556 (school counseling) and 10-145d-560 (school psychology). The Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification will accept the EPP's successful recommendation of a candidate on the ED-170A form as an attestation of program completion.

edTPA:

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) maintains that edTPA is a valuable performance-based, subject-specific assessment which emphasizes, measures and supports the skills and knowledge that all teachers need prior to entering the classroom. However, given the unique circumstance around COVID-19 and the widespread cancellation of classes in schools across the state, the CSDE has adopted the following policy stance:

- The expectation remains that spring 2020 'Student Teacher' candidates submit a completed edTPA portfolio where possible. However, the CSDE will waive the cut score for all candidates.
- EPPs will be able to submit an *edTPA Waiver Request* for any 'Student Teacher' candidate who is unable to submit a completed edTPA portfolio as a result of COVID-19 related circumstances.

Extreme Circumstances:

In the event that an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) is not comfortable recommending a spring 2020 candidate as a program completer, the Bureau will consider whether additional flexibilities will allow the candidate to pursue employment and complete any outstanding clinical experience requirement deemed necessary by the EPP for institutional recommendation.

Additional information regarding the *edTPA Waiver Request* and temporary electronic submission of ED-170A forms will be forthcoming. We thank you for your patience and understanding as the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification works to meet the needs of higher education institutions, faculty, candidates and partnering districts affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please contact Christopher.Todd@ct.gov, 860-713-6816, with any questions.

MAC:cmt

cc: Ms. Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Dr. Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer
Mr. Christopher Todd, Bureau Chief, Talent Office
Dr. Katie Moirs, Education Consultant