



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
Superintendents of Unified School Districts
Directors of Public Charter Schools
Executive Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers
Directors of Approved Private Special Education Programs
TEAM Program District Facilitators

FROM: Dr. Shuana K. Tucker, Chief Talent Officer

DATE: June 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Update: TEAM Reminders & Flexibilities

As districts and building leaders plan for the 2020-21 school year, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Talent Office is pleased to collaborate with our partners across the Regional Educational Service Center (RESA) Alliance on this joint message and TEAM FAQs and Guidance regarding several reminders, updates and forthcoming training opportunities to effectively maintain Connecticut's Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) program.

TEAM FAQs and Guidance

We have prepared a set of [Frequently Asked Questions and Guidance](#) about how components of the program will be addressed this summer and fall.

TEAM Mentors & Individual Support Teacher (IST) Training:

The CSDE Talent Office and the RESA Alliance recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the ability of a district to support educators becoming TEAM trained mentors through the IST Training process. Additionally, as educators transitioned to a distance learning environment, maintaining current TEAM mentor status may not have been a priority. As such, the following measures and forthcoming trainings will help address these concerns:

- All TEAM trained mentors who are required to complete their mentor update by July 1 will retain their active TEAM Mentor status through the 2020-21 school year, allowing them to begin the new [Mentor Update Professional Learning Series](#) launching Fall 2020.
- District Facilitators may assign a mentor to a beginning teacher who is currently not TEAM trained provided that the assigned mentor completes TEAM IST prior to January 1, 2021 and meets statutory eligibility requirements.
- The CSDE Talent Office and RESA Staff Developers are working to transition IST training to live, virtual offerings. We anticipate virtual IST Trainings to be available by late summer/early fall to support the training of new TEAM Mentors across the state. Additionally, once social distancing guidance and group size limitations are eased, in-person IST trainings will resume.

TEAM Reviewers & Individual Reflection Paper Reviewer (IRP) Training:

In addition to flexibility measures taken to address TEAM mentorship and IST Training, the following measures and forthcoming trainings will help support TEAM programming regardless of each specific districts' use of the TEAM Consortium, In-District or Review of Practice (ROP) review process:

- All TEAM trained reviewers, who were eligible for the 2019-20 school year, will retain their eligibility as a reviewer through the 2020-21 school year.
- The CSDE Talent Office and RESC Staff Developers are working to transition IRT training to live, virtual offerings. We anticipate virtual IRT Trainings to be available by late summer/early fall to support the training of new TEAM Reviewers across the state.

Clinical Placement Reminders:

Now, more than ever, we recognize the necessity to provide early-career educators and teacher candidates with strong mentorship. As the CSDE Talent Office works with our Connecticut Education Provider Programs (EPPs) to develop clinical placement guidance for Fall 2020, we want to remind districts of the following:

- Clinical Practicums, Field Work, and Student Teaching Placement requirements can be successfully met through both in-person and virtual learning environments; details of placements must continue to be coordinated between each EPP and their partnering districts/school buildings.
- While we encourage districts and EPPs to utilize existing TEAM Mentors, ***TEAM Trained Mentors are only required for Student Teaching Placements***; all other clinical practicum and fieldwork candidate experiences can be successfully met through a placement with any appropriately certified educator.

We recognize the challenges faced by each district as you work to support educators and students and prepare for the unknowns of the upcoming 2020-21 school year. We appreciate your patience as we work with our TEAM stakeholder group and TEAM RESC Staff Developers to shift programming and offerings to meet the demands in the field while maintaining the integrity of Connecticut’s induction program. If you have additional questions or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to the Claudine Primack, TEAM Program Manager, or to your RESC TEAM program liaison listed below.

Contacts:

CSDE Talent Office – Claudine Primack	Claudine.Primack@ct.gov
ACES – Emily Freel	efreel@aces.org
CES – Esther Bobowick	bobowice@cestrumbull.org
CREC – Jessica Kazigian	jkazigian@crec.org
EASTCONN – Diane Dugas	ddugas@eastconn.org
EdAdvance – Carly Weiland Quiros	quiros@edadvance.org
LEARN – Ellen Dalton	edalton@learn.k12.ct.us



SKT:cmt

- cc: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education
 Ms. Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner of Education
 Mr. Christopher Todd, Bureau Chief, Talent Office
 Ms. Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director, CAPSS
 Ms. Claudine Primack, TEAM Program Manager, Talent Office