



MEMORANDUM

From: Dr. Anthony J. Rosilez, Executive Director
To: All Interested Parties
Date: August 24, 2021

RE: AY 2021-22 TSPC Response to COVID-19

The following is hereby effective from August 24, 2021 until further notice:

Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
Agency Continued Response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
August 24, 2021 Educator Preparation Accommodations

The current surge in COVID-19 cases, primarily due to the Delta variant of the virus continues to challenge Oregon’s recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic. Hospitalization of infected Oregonians is increasing, and ICU beds are near critical capacity. Amongst this chilling reality, Oregon’s schools are preparing to begin the 2021-2022 academic year. Governor Brown and the Oregon Department of Education have made clear the intention for students to return to in-person instruction. As a means to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within schools, the Governor has instituted a requirement for indoor masks within all schools as well as required vaccination of all school employees and volunteers.

The Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) remains committed to supporting Oregon’s schools and the preparation of licensed educators during the public health threat of the Coronavirus. The Commission understands that the school reopening guidelines, including indoor mask and vaccination requirements, may pose a significant challenge to the completion of clinical and student teaching placements of current educator preparation program (EPP) candidates.¹ In an effort to support EPPs and candidates and to help minimize the spread of COVID-19, the Commission will provide the following accommodations, effective August 24, 2021, until further notice. The accommodations provided herein are pursuant to Governor Brown’s Executive Order 20-03 and licensure waiver authority provided to the Executive Director per [OAR 584-200-0100\(1\)](#).²

A. Civil Rights Exam

An alternative to the Protecting Student and Civil Rights in the Educational Environment (Civil Rights) exam is in development. TSPC staff has been working with EPPs to ensure that the foundational expectations of the civil rights requirement are encompassed within currently approved education preparation programs. In order to minimize social contact of our educator

¹ TSPC currently understands the mask and vaccination requirements will be applicable to clinical experience candidates and their supervisors.

² While Governor Brown has allowed many of the COVID-19 provisions previously in place through executive order regarding education to expire, the general provisions of [Executive Order 20-03](#) remain in effect. Refer to [ORS 1401.168\(2\)](#).

candidates, the requirement to pass the Civil Rights exam for Oregon EPP candidates will continue to be waived. This waiver is consistent with the Commission's goal to emphasize the assessment of civil rights standards within educator preparation curriculum and clinical experiences.

B. Supporting Teacher, Administrator, and Personnel Service Education Program Candidates

1. Clinical Practices: In-person, virtual, hybrid, or simulated instructional experiences may be utilized by EPPs and candidates to meet the requirements for clinical experiences (including student teaching).
2. Required observations of clinical candidates by university or school supervisors may be completed in person or virtually.
3. These accommodations do not reduce the required number of hours, observations, and evaluations required of candidates in clinical placements.
4. All other requirements of clinical experiences per Commission rule remain in effect.
5. In the event schools or school districts are closed or disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EPPs may utilize the provisions of [OAR 584-400-0140\(13-14\)](#) to provide partial clinical waivers as appropriate.
6. EPPs are required to maintain documentation of any virtual, hybrid, or simulated experiences provided to clinical candidates, to include evidence that the nature, quality, quantity, and assessment of such experiences is consistent with the standards approved by the Commission for educator preparation. EPPs may be required to report these experiences in their annual report or as otherwise requested by TSPC.

C. Term of Accommodations

1. The terms of the accommodations provided herein will be effective August 24, 2021 until further notice provided by the TSPC Executive Director.

By following these provisions, TSPC hopes to reduce the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring that our K-12 students are provided instruction by highly qualified educators. Current EPPs and educator candidates may contact Wayne.Strickland@Oregon.gov for further assistance. All other questions should be referred to Executive Director Rosilez at Anthony.Rosilez@Oregon.gov.