



MEMORANDUM

From: Dr. Anthony J. Rosilez, Executive Director
To: All Interested Parties
Date: September 30, 2020

RE: Continuing TSPC Response to COVID-19

The following is hereby enacted for September 23, 2020 – June 30, 2021:

Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
Agency Response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
September 23, 2020 – June 30, 2021 School Accommodations

The Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) remains committed to supporting Oregon’s schools and licensed educators during the public health threat of the Coronavirus. On September 1, 2020, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-38, which extends Executive Order 20-03 (March 8, 2020), at least through November 3, 2020. Executive Order 20-03 declared an emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and directed agencies to implement procedures and waive or adopt rules necessary to “prevent or alleviate the public health threat.” The continued threat of COVID-19, and the challenges faced by Oregon’s public schools and educators in safely providing instruction to students, warrant an extension of the provisions of the March 23, 2020, TSPC Agency Response to COVID-19 (as amended, April 7, 2020) with appropriate modifications.

The TSPC response to the current pandemic continues to be, first and foremost, guided by the agency’s mission “to establish, uphold and enforce professional standards of excellence and communicate those standards to the public and educators for the benefit of Oregon’s students.” The Oregon Department of Education’s *Ready Schools, Safe Learners* guidance on school reopening, particularly the guidance related to social distancing and student cohorts, will continue to challenge candidates from completing their preparation programs this academic year. Additionally, given the training and ongoing support required of teachers in adapting to distance learning formats, Oregon’s educators will continue to experience significant difficulty in completing required professional development, coursework, or time-in-service requirements for license renewal in 2020-2021. Without relief, the potential effect on the workforce would significantly impact the learning opportunities provided to Oregon students. Determining the appropriate response requires the agency to consider the flexibility in licensing and educator preparation requirements that may be offered while maintaining the high standards held for each educator in our schools and classrooms.

Therefore, in support of the Governor’s directive to modify instruction at all K-12 schools pending reduction of the COVID-19 outbreak, and to further the precautionary social distancing recommendations, TSPC is implementing the following provisions:

A. Civil Rights Exam

TSPC is currently developing an alternative to the Protecting Student and Civil Rights in the Educational Environment (Civil Rights) exam. TSPC staff believes that the foundational expectations of the civil rights requirement are encompassed within currently approved education preparation programs. Given the challenges of completing the examination during a period when testing centers are closed or have limited availability in response to the COVID-19 event, TSPC has suspended this requirement per the Governor's Executive Order 20-03 (under authority of ORS 1401.168(2)). The suspension applies to current candidates and educators on Reciprocal Licenses who have not yet successfully completed the Civil Rights Exam.

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

1. For *teacher, administrator, and personnel service candidates* who have successfully completed all required previous licensed experience, coursework, testing¹, and clinical experience/mentoring requirements for licensure, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) may submit the appropriate Program Completion Report to TSPC per current practice.
2. For *teacher candidates* who have successfully completed all requirements for licensure except the edTPA and/or at least four complete weeks of student teaching or other required clinical requirement, the EPP may utilize the edTPA waiver in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule [\(OAR\) 84-400-0120 \(6\)](#) and/or the EPP clinical practices waiver process in accordance with [OAR 584-400-0140 \(16\)](#) and the March 13, 2020, Executive Director correspondence to EPP stakeholders, updated for the 2020-2021 academic year. In addition, for Oregon statute purposes, all clinical practices may be virtual and may be asynchronous. (The SCALE edTPA requirement for Task 2, however, is for a synchronous Virtual Learning Environment [VLE]. See Option 4 regarding local scoring of Task 2.) The EPP may use a Cooperating Teacher (CT) who is not endorsed in the area of the candidate's teaching as long as their endorsement is in a closely related endorsement area. These similar endorsement areas with Cooperating Teacher and/or candidate shall be reported in the subsequent annual report. If no other CT is available, the EPP may use a CT with less than the required 3 years of experience. These (2020-21) placements must be reported in the 2022 annual report.
3. For *teacher candidates with a previously earned bachelor's degree* who have completed all requirements for licensure except the required endorsement assessment of content (ORELA or other Commission-approved multiple measure of content knowledge) and/or the teacher candidates have less than four complete weeks of student teaching or other clinical experience requirement (regardless of whether edTPA was successfully completed), the following flexibility will be provided:
 - a. The EPP may submit to TSPC at the end of Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Spring 2021, or Summer 2021 term, a Modified PCR notating all requirements have been met except for the required content assessment and/or less than four complete weeks of student teaching or other clinical experience.
 - b. The EPP provides the candidate with documentation that all education program requirements have been met except for the required assessments and/or required student teaching/clinical experience.

¹ Except for the Civil Rights Exam requirement, subject to Governor's approval of temporary rule suspension.

- c. The candidate may seek employment with school districts and, upon hire, may apply to TSPC for the appropriate Restricted License².
 - d. All school districts will be notified that they may hire a Restricted Licensed candidate without restriction and reported sponsorship within the authorized subject of the license or within a substantially similar placement that incorporates the subject area for at least a portion of the school day. Districts are required to provide ongoing induction and support to these Restricted Licensed educators.
 - e. The candidate must meet any content area assessments required for the license sought within the valid period of the Restricted License.
 - f. Following at least half of one academic year in a full-time assignment or a full-year in a less than full-time assignment, the district superintendent (or licensed administrative designee) will submit to TSPC a completed evaluation of the educator's performance.³
 - g. Upon receipt of the positive evaluation and application for non-provisional license from the educator, TSPC will consider the application under waiver provisions and will issue a license as appropriate ([OAR 584-200-0100](#)). Only at such time may the educator's EPP consider the educator to be a completer.
4. For *undergraduate teacher candidates or those without a previously earned bachelor's degree* who have completed all requirements for licensure except the required endorsement assessment of content (ORELA or other Commission-approved multiple measure of content knowledge) and/or less than four complete weeks of student teaching or other clinical experience requirement (regardless of whether or not the edTPA was successfully completed), the provisions of Subsection 3, above, may be utilized except that an Emergency License will be issued rather than a Restricted License. The other provisions of Subsection 3 must be completed within the term of the Emergency License.⁴
 5. For *Administrator or Personnel Services license candidates*, EPPs may request a waiver (pursuant to [OAR 584-200-0100](#)) of one quarter or semester of the required prerequisite experience for the license to account for the school closure period. (This would equate to 0.5 year of full-time experience, or one-sixth of the required half-time experience.) The EPP may also request additional waiver time for each subsequent term the school was either closed or instruction was modified due to the pandemic. EPPs may also utilize an EPP clinical practices waiver to reduce required clinical practice or mentorship time by the equivalent of no more than 11 weeks in accordance with [OAR 584-400-0140 \(16\)](#) and the March 13, 2020, Executive Director correspondence to EPP stakeholders. This is a continuation of the flexibility initiated in Spring 2020.

² Candidates are required to pay the application and other standard fees for the Restricted License. However, candidates who satisfy the requirements of Subsections 3(e-g) within one year of issuance of the Restricted License will have the application fee for the Preliminary License waived.

³ The Superintendent or licensed administrator designee may utilize the district approved evaluation instrument for this purpose.

⁴ Candidates are required to pay the application and other standard fees for the Emergency License. However, candidates who satisfy the requirements to transition from the Emergency to the Preliminary License within one year of issuance of the Emergency License will have the application fee for the Preliminary License waived.

C. Supporting Currently Licensed Educators⁵

Required professional development for all Oregon licensed educators will be reduced by twenty-five units for the 2020-2021 academic year ending June 30, 2021. This does not include the previous twelve unit reduction granted for Spring 2020.

1. This will include requirements for license renewal and Advanced Professional Development Program plans for licensure advancement, subject to any district requirements and collective bargaining agreements.
2. In lieu of the reduced professional development requirements, educators are encouraged to consider independent study of trauma-informed practices and culturally responsive instruction.
3. An educator applying to renew or extend a Restricted License, Reciprocal License, Emergency License, or License for Conditional Assignment who has not completed all requirements for license renewal or extension, or who has not completed any required testing⁶, coursework, or time-in-service requirement for moving from a Reciprocal License to a non-conditional license, may include within the application to TSPC a waiver request with all required documentation per [OAR 584-200-0100](#). TSPC will evaluate applications with waiver requests and determine whether to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application.
4. Educators with non-provisional licenses applying for additional endorsements from the period March 16, 2020, through June 30, 2021, and who have met all requirements for the added endorsements except for required clinical experience, may submit a waiver request for the clinical experience.⁷
5. Educators assigned to a full-time (1.0 FTE) continuing position (non-substitute or limited term) as of March 13, 2020, will be deemed to have completed one full year of service for the 2019-2020 school year for TSPC licensing purposes. Educators assigned to a greater than half-time (0.5 FTE) continuing position (non-substitute or limited term) as of March 13, 2020, will be deemed to have completed one year of half-time service for the 2019-2020 school year for TSPC licensing purposes. (This provision does not carry over to the 2020-21 academic year.)

D. Term of Provisions

1. Section A will be effective through June 2021.
2. Section B(2)-(5) is effective for educator candidates who qualify to utilize the applicable Subsection during the period September 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.
3. Section C(1),(2) is effective for licensed educators during the license renewal cycle September 2020 – June 2021
4. Section C(3) is effective for educators applying for license renewal, extension, or transition to non-provisional license from September 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.
5. Section C(4) is effective from September 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.
6. Section C(5) is applicable only for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. These provisions may be modified, extended, or cancelled upon notice from the Commission.

⁵ Items 1 & 2 from this list were included within TSPC precautionary measures dated March 13, 2020.

⁶ Except for the Civil Rights Exam requirement, subject to Governor's approval of temporary rule suspension.

⁷ EPPs may utilize their clinical experience waiver authority provided in OAR [584-400-0140 \(16\)](#) for educators completing added endorsement requirements through an EPP. Educators adding endorsements via the testing method only may submit a waiver request as provided in OAR [584-200-0100](#).

The current pandemic further demonstrates our role as educators to support the needs of our students, communities, and each other. Today reminds us of how important our profession is to the sustainability of our communities beyond the classroom. Educators may contact TSPC at contact.tspc@oregon.gov for further information. Current educator preparation program candidates or education preparation providers may contact Wayne.Strickland@Oregon.gov. All other questions should be referred to Executive Director Rosilez at Anthony.Rosilez@Oregon.gov.