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Cc: [ROSILEZ Anthony * TSPC](#); [STRICKLAND Wayne * TSPC](#); [ROBBECKE Candace * TSPC](#)
Subject: Important TSPC communique in light of K-12 shut-down
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 9:41:02 AM

This email is being sent to EPP deans / directors / chairs and program liaisons.

COMMUNICATION TO ALL EPPs AND TSPC STAKEHOLDERS

As you know by now, Governor Brown issued a State of Emergency and last night added that all K-12s are to close from Monday, March 16, through Tuesday, March 31, 2020. In light of these emergency pandemic notices the TSPC is making the following notifications:

First, we previously communicated the OAR that allows partial clinical practices waivers that are interrupted by school or district closures. EPPs are able to grant partial clinical practices waivers at their discretion for any closure or interruption that adversely impacts the completion of candidate clinical requirements. Following is a recap of the previous notice we sent out:

[OAR 584-400-0140 \(16\) School or district closures:](#) An EPP may grant a partial waiver of the clinical practice requirement(s) if a candidate is unable to complete the clinical practice due to an unforeseen school or district closure. In order to grant a partial waiver, the EPP must submit information in the next annual report to the Commission, as provided in the [Program Review and Standards Handbook](#).

Clinical Partnerships Interrupted by K-12 closure due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) [OAR 584-400-0140 \(16\)](#) provides a solution as part of your contingency plan for educator candidates impacted by school district actions that affect field experiences. As an EPP, you may grant a partial clinical practices waiver if your students are unable to finish the required clinical practice requirements due to “unforeseen school or district closure” that prevents their fulfillment of the requirement. This ability applies to the requirement of an uninterrupted nine weeks of full-time teaching or the 15

total weeks of teaching.

Each EPP must report such granting of partial clinical practices waivers in the subsequent annual report (Handbook, 61). TSPC will gather the following information related to partial clinical practices waivers in the 2021 annual reports, which are for the 2019-20 academic year:

- Which students did not complete the full clinical experience?
- How far short of the requirement did the candidate fall?
- What factors assure you that the candidate is, nevertheless, qualified to teach? Examples of activities that candidates can do to further their understanding of instructional practices include:
 - Additional content methods assignments;
 - Simulated instructional delivery;
 - Instruction or independent study on trauma-informed instructional practices and culturally relevant teaching practices;
 - Study of exemplary lessons (video-taped lessons, etc.).

The paramount concern is the health and safety of student candidates and students in the K-12 systems. We are likewise concerned about the health and safety of faculty and staff! Please build your contingency plan with that in mind. Hopefully this will set everyone's mind at ease.

FURTHER DIRECTION REGARDING CLINICAL PRACTICES

1. **EPP clinical practices waivers:** Remember that the EPP must believe the candidate is qualified to submit a Program Completion Report. TSPC recommends students who are on academic probation or similar condition not be granted the clinical practices waiver; however, this is ultimately an institutional decision. There may be various questions you have related to what qualifies as a clinical practices waiver; as the EPP you are best qualified to interpret each situation and make that judgment.
2. **Work Sample:** In addition, it may not be possible for the student to complete the edTPA portion of the regulation due to the coronavirus pandemic. We do encourage the EPP to work with the candidate and, if at all possible, to complete the edTPA artifacts and submissions. However, when that is not possible, the EPP may need to work with the candidate to construct an "Oregon-type" Work Sample portfolio ([OAR 584-400-0120 \[6\]](#)) as a substitute for the formal edTPA requirement. The Work Sample portfolio must be pre-approved by the TSPC Director of Education Preparation via email (Wayne.Strickland@Oregon.gov) prior to submission of edTPA waiver request(s), as noted below.
3. **TSPC edTPA waivers:** The EPP is responsible for requesting edTPA waiver(s) for candidates who will substitute the Work Sample for the edTPA. To minimize the disruption to EPPs, the EPP's may submit a single waiver request for all such candidates. The EPP will need to include the names of each affected candidate, the candidate's last four of SSN, the content area, and a description of the Work Sample assignment.

4. **Virtual or online classes:** In some situations, classes may be converted into a virtual or online class. If the EPP desires, a student may teach in that online format to fulfill at least part of the student teaching requirement.
5. **Supervisor and CT observations:** In some situations it may not be wise or feasible to observe the candidate face-to-face. Thus, we are temporarily lifting the limit on virtual observations by the supervisor or CT.

TSPC STAFF SUPPORT

The staff of TSPC want to encourage you that we understand the changes and circumstances that you are facing. As you move forward to adjust to the ever-changing situation with your programs, our number one rule is your safety and the safety of your candidates and your staff. We hope that every decision you make will be for the advantage and safety of your students and staff.

TSPC has also been impacted by the pandemic and most of the staff are operating in a telecommuting mode. Candace and Wayne are both telecommuting, but want you to know that TSPC is committed to serve you as effectively as possible.

Although there will be no desk phone operation, please understand that we are here to serve you via email and mobile phone.

Candace's contact information:

Candace.robbecke@oregon.gov

Mobile: 503.559.2413

Wayne's contact information:

Wayne.strickland@oregon.gov

Mobile: 503.510.2251

Further notices will be forthcoming as they occur. Please contact us for any other questions that may arise as we continue to "flatten the curve" of the pandemic. We appreciate the critical role you play in the education of Oregon's children!

Wayne G. Strickland

Wayne G. Strickland, Ph.D.

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