



March 24, 2020

Dear Ed Prep colleagues,

Recent actions taken by Governor Gina Raimondo to address the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak have undoubtedly impacted all aspects of education across Rhode Island. We understand that Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) are particularly affected by this pandemic as you move to Online Learning opportunities to safeguard the health and safety of your candidates and campus community. We know that you are committed to preparing excellent educators, but also must address the impact of this pandemic.

As you know, Rhode Island PK-12 schools have moved to distance learning. This transition has included crafting distance learning plans with RIDE's guidance and support. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) are making their distance learning plans public via their LEA websites. RIDE continues to support schools and districts as they implement their plans. Similar to this plan for LEAs, RIDE requests that EPPs complete an **Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) COVID-19 Plan** to ensure that current candidates receive a comprehensive preparation to effectively serve the students in their future schools and classrooms, while having the necessary flexibility to demonstrate their readiness to teach or lead given the COVID-19 situation. Crafting a COVID-19 plan presents EPPs with the opportunity to detail how you will incorporate modifications and accommodations to the educator preparation experience.

While some states have formal waiver policies (e.g., related to time in student teaching or other field-based clinical experiences) in their certification guidelines or EPP guidelines, Rhode Island does not. RIDE is granting EPPs the flexibility to modify remaining EPP experiences or revisit previous experiences to respond to the realities of the COVID-19 situation, while ensuring that standards, proficiencies, and competencies are met demonstrating candidates' satisfactory program completion and, thus, eligibility for Rhode Island certification. Given the COVID-19 situation, eligibility for Rhode Island certification will not be solely tied to time in a student teaching or field-based clinical experience, but to program completion per the terms of a COVID-19 plan.

Another important element of certification eligibility is testing. We are aware that testing centers are temporarily closed and that some of your candidates may not be able to take the tests necessary for Rhode Island certification. While we do not have alternate guidance at this time, please know that RIDE is exploring potential options. You are welcome to include examples of testing complications that you have experienced thus far in your COVID-19 plan below. As you and your candidates encounter issues

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or questions during this time, we encourage you to communicate with your provider-level leadership and clinical education partners, specifically those clinical educators supporting your candidates.

Finally, we are willing to accept submitted COVID-19 plans by program or by provider. You are welcome to have individual programs submit plans or your provider (or other intermediary level) can cluster, review, and submit plans based on common program structures and elements. Please follow the submission guidelines provided below.

Please complete the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) COVID-19 Plan below and submit to clayton.ross@ride.ri.gov by Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Updates and information for the Rhode Island community about the Coronavirus can be found on RIDE's [COVID-19 webpage](#). As this situation continues to unfold, RIDE will revisit and consider potential new policy decisions as needed. If you have questions regarding the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) COVID-19 Plan, please contact clayton.ross@ride.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Foehr, Chief
Division of Teaching and Learning



Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) COVID-19 Plan

Objective: The purpose of the EPP COVID-19 Plan is for EPPs to:

- 1) Describe the instructional plans as EPPs move to Online Learning
- 2) Consider the impact of Online Learning on candidates' field-based clinical experiences
- 3) Report information regarding affected students
- 4) Ensure equity for all candidates

Please fill out the information below and submit to clayton.ross@ride.ri.gov by Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Provider Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Program Name(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Dean/Director: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone: Click or tap here to enter text.

Objective 1: Online learning plans

- a. Please describe the plan to move to Online Learning for candidates including start date, estimated duration, and an overview of modifications or accommodations to delivery of instruction, curriculum, and assessment.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Objective 2: Impact on field-based clinical experiences

- a. Please describe how the COVID-19 situation has interrupted your candidates field-based clinical experiences. How do these interruptions present challenges for the expectations set for candidates' field-based clinical experiences?

Click or tap here to enter text.

- b. Please describe the plan for how candidates will demonstrate evidence of meeting the proficiencies or competencies set at the program-level for program completion and certification eligibility (via previous field-based clinical experiences, videotaped lessons, or other opportunities). How will this plan be affected and/or amended should schools resume prior to the conclusion of the academic year?



Click or tap here to enter text.

- c. Please describe the plan (if applicable) for including candidates in Online Learning at the field-based clinical placement (e.g., working with clinical supervisor to support students' Online Learning)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Objective 3: Reporting student information

- a. Please report information regarding candidates affected by the COVID-19 situation. This information should include: 1) Candidate name; 2) Field-based clinical experience type (e.g., student teaching, practicum); 3) Certification area (grade span and content area)

Note: Please submit the list as a separate attachment as an excel file or a table in a word doc.

Objective 4: Ensuring equity

- a. Please describe how you address potential technology and/or Internet needs for candidates during the COVID-19 situation and transition to Online Learning.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- b. Candidates who have emergent health issues or other extenuating circumstances that do not allow participation in the Online Learning plan will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Please describe the provider policy for emergent health issue or other extenuating circumstances related to program completion and certification eligibility.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- c. Describe a plan (if applicable) for how candidates will be supported beyond the spring 2020 academic semester (e.g., available mentoring or coaching, collaborative networking opportunities).

Click or tap here to enter text.

Questions and Comments

Click or tap here to enter text.