



## COVID-19 FAQ Sheet: Educator Preparation

### Question and Answer

1. Please provide guidance for student teachers in special education endorsement placements who may have been in placements for a short time.
  - a. The governor's suspension of clinical hours requirements authorizes programs to determine, through all available data, when each individual candidate is prepared well enough to recommend for a license. This will be a case-by-case decision made by the institution.
  - b. Iowa Board of Educational Examiners' (BoEE) requirements affect student teaching for special education endorsements. Guidance for special education student teaching should be sought from the BoEE.
2. Similar guidance is needed related to those in EL who are needing experiences at the opposite level in student teaching and practicum settings (for those who are current teachers).
  - a. As stated in #1a above, programs will make the best decision based on all available data, with an emphasis on all practicum experiences.
  - b. BoEE requirements affect grade-level specific practicum/student teaching for K-12 endorsements. Guidance for EL endorsement clinical experiences should be sought from the BoEE.
3. Please provide guidance for program completion testing in light of limited opportunities from testing companies.
  - a. There is no guidance available at this time on changes to program completion test requirements.
  - b. Note the option initiated in August of 2019, which authorized a waiver of the program completion test requirement. You can request the waiver [here](#), but the BoEE has conditions that must be met before a temporary license can be issued.
4. Is there a way to license students who were not showing adequate progress during student teaching in a similar way to those who didn't pass program completion tests?
  - a. There are no plans to allow this option. Programs need to examine their evidence to determine if candidates were making adequate progress during student teaching. If programs do not have enough evidence of adequate progress in order to recommend full licensure/program completion, the program will need to develop alternative plans with the candidate.

5. We have candidates engaged in clinical experiences at multiple points in their teacher preparation or administrator preparation programs, how does the governor's proclamation impact them?

a. Since teacher and administrator preparation candidates at multiple stages in their program progression are enrolled in clinical experiences in the Spring 2020 and are impacted by school and college closures, the Department will allow programs to consider any required hours "met" for the spring 2020 semester. Although programs are encouraged to remediate missed learning opportunities in clinical experiences in coming semesters, there is no requirement for programs to require candidates to make up missed opportunities from the spring 2020 semester.

6. What happens if a student is otherwise ready to be admitted to the program but cannot take the required pre-professional skills test due to test centers being closed?

a. There is no plan to suspend the pre-professional skills test requirement. To provide the necessary flexibility and allow students time to pass the required test, the Department suggests programs temporarily change their admission policies to allow a student to be conditionally admitted or waive prerequisite requirements for courses offered in the fall.