March 25, 2020

Texas Education Agency Educator Preparation Program Update

COVID-19 Disaster Declaration and EPP Implications

As TEA has heard from individuals, programs, and organizations over the past week, they have been affirmed that we all continue to share the same goals:

• Ensuring the safety of our students, both PK-12 and teacher candidates
• Ensuring we have a well-prepared teacher workforce to meet the demands of the districts we serve across the state

Governor Abbott has issued specific waivers for those completing Clinical Teaching during Spring 2020. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s waiver, candidates completing clinical teaching during spring 2020 who meet the following criteria will be considered to have successfully met requirements for clinical teaching:

• Completed at least half of the required days of clinical teaching, 35 days for full-day assignments
• Demonstrated proficiency in each of the educator standards for their assignments (to be determined by individual university preparation programs),
• Received a recommendation from their field supervisor and cooperating teacher that the candidate should be recommended for a standard certificate.

In accordance with Governor Abbott’s waiver, the requirements for candidates’ clinical teaching experiences to be completed in an actual school setting have been waived. This means that these candidates may complete any additional requirements by:

• Supporting their cooperating teacher through non-traditional means
• Demonstrate proficiency based on alternative arrangements established by the individual university preparation program, such as simulated, remote, virtual, or video classroom experiences and reflections.

In accordance with Governor Abbott’s waiver, all requirements related to field supervision of candidates have been waived, including the number, duration, timing, and format of the observation.
Therefore, considering the current update by TEA and the Governor, the Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi’s EPP, in accordance with the aforementioned, has revised their current CT expectations and developed the following expectations which will be effective March 30th through April 24th for Clinical Teaching:

**CLINICAL TEACHERS**

1. Assist Cooperating Teachers/Districts with Virtual/On-line Planning, teaching, Assessing, technology (minimum of 10 hours per week). A few examples include:
   - Finding online resources and upload to Google classroom or other On-line platform
   - Creating charts/graphs/videos
   - Creating videos for students who need additional assistance with concepts
   - Providing feedback on student work (with guidance from mentor teacher)
   - Phone Conferencing
   - Sanford Inspire
   - TEA Resources, IRIS by Vanderbilt University
   - WebEx, Google Meet, Zoom, Skype, etc.

2. Keep track and Document number of hours spent working with Cooperating Teachers Virtually/Online (use attached log – 10 hours per week minimum)

3. Send weekly logs to Cooperating Teachers every Monday via e-mail for review

4. IF district(s) should resume Face-to-face instruction, TAMU-CC CTs will continue to ONLY assist virtually and/or On-line

5. On-line Modules in the following Blackboard Course is NO LONGER REQUIRED

   **21075.202001 [SP-20] EDUC-4994-014 - STUDENT TEACHING: GRADE EC-6**

**COOPERATING TEACHER**

1. Review number of hours Clinical Teacher Reports: Clinical Teachers will e-mail weekly log to Cooperating Teachers by end of day every Monday

2. Contact University Supervisor if minimum number of hours not being completed weekly

3. Continue to mentor, guide, and assist respective Clinical Teachers throughout the remainder of the semester as best as possible through on On-line/Virtual process

**PARTNERSHIP DISTRICTS**

1. If possible, provide Clinical Teachers with On-line district access to platforms, resources, etc. so that CTs can collaborate with their Cooperating Teacher online and engage with students in the online environment. Partnership Districts are asked to consider having their Technology Services department create district accounts for clinical teachers and provide the account information to Cooperating Teachers who can then pass on to their clinical teachers. If district access cannot be provided, CTs will still be able to assist Coops virtually and On-line in a variety of other ways.
2. Allow and encourage Cooperating Teachers to continue to mentor, guide, and assist respective Clinical Teachers throughout the remainder of the semester.
3. Understand that if district(s) should resume Face-to-face instruction, TAMU-CC CTs will continue to ONLY assist virtually/online

UNIVERSITY SUPERVISORS

1. Contact Clinical Teachers once per week (minimum)
2. Conduct a final Triad by April 24th (via phone meeting/conference, WebEx, Google Meet, Zoom, GoToMeeting, Skype, etc.). TAMU-CC’s IT can assist.

Finally, as we all continue to navigate through this uncharted and unfamiliar territory, we remain committed to our students’ continued professional development and preparation. In doing so, we also continue our unparallel dedication to our districts and to the profession of education to do everything we know best to do in order to provide our students with unsurpassed teaching and learning experiences under the current circumstances. Our collective and collaborative efforts will continue to foster the production of the finest classroom teachers possible.

Please let me know if you should have any questions, and remember we are all in this together.

Stay safe everyone,

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