March 27, 2020

Guidance for EPPs – COVID-19

The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (OEQA) is closely monitoring the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the anticipated impact to candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs. We recognize that we must remain flexible and adaptable as the situation continues to unfold. Our focus is on providing support during this extraordinary time while taking prudent and practical steps to minimize disruption to the certification process. The following outlines flexibility that will be provided to EPPs and their candidates encountering interrupted completion of requirements due to COVID-19.

State Requirement – Field Experiences

If necessitated by extended periods of P12 school closures, and with the expectation that the impacted clinical experiences remain as close as possible to the minimum requirements set by the state for initial and advanced certification fields, EPPs will be granted the flexibility to:

- arrange temporary placements in other appropriate settings;
- provide virtual learning opportunities; and/or
- implement alternative assignments and instruction.

EPPs will submit their plan for meeting the student teaching/internship requirement to OEQA for approval.

State Requirement – Faculty Professional Development

Distance/virtual learning activities with P12 students and faculty can be used by EPP faculty to meet the 10-hour requirement whenever possible. When this is not an option, EPPs must document this in the 2020 OEQA Annual Report.

PPAT® Completion

Candidates that have completed PPAT® Tasks 1-3, and who are unable to submit Task 4 due to school closures, will be provided test fee vouchers for the OPTE. Qualified candidates must be verified by their EPPs and numbers and names of recipients provided to OEQA.