

Resources Memo: COVID-19

How can states support the teacher certification process when student teachers cannot complete onsite activities?

Regional Educational
Laboratory
Central

From the National Center for Education Evaluation at IES

How can states support the teacher certification process when student teachers cannot complete onsite activities?

Given the recent school closures, educator preparation programs (EPPs) are working to provide alternative routes to certification because many preservice teachers have not been and will not be able to acquire all of the onsite practicum hours required for licensure. REL Central has compiled resources on what states might do to address this situation.

- Resources from states outline modifications to traditional student teacher practicum hours, considering school closures:
 - [Iowa](#) is allowing EPP faculty members to recommend preservice teachers for licensure, even if they have not finished the required onsite practicum hours.
 - [Texas](#) is allowing EPPs to decrease the minimum hours required by 20%.
 - [New Jersey](#), [Mississippi](#), [California](#), and [Kentucky](#) are encouraging EPPs to allow student teachers to earn hours by completing alternative activities, assignments, or placements, including virtual placements.
 - [Washington](#) is suggesting that districts hire candidates on a conditional certificate.
- Alternative routes to certification allow teachers to enter the profession more quickly than traditional routes. These resources may help states and districts evaluate the benefits and risks to waiving or altering onsite practicum hours due to school closures:
 - Education Commission of the States shows that [alternative routes vary by state](#) and [many states are altering requirements to meet demands](#). These resources outline considerations related to temporary waivers and alternatives to practicum hours.
 - [The Center on Great Teachers & Leaders](#) published a policy snapshot of state alternative routes to teaching.
 - Rigorous IES studies provide findings on the [performance of students taught by teachers from alternative routes versus traditional routes](#).

Please contact REL Central if you have questions: RelCentral@MarzanoResearch.com.

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