

Certification Examination Guidance for New York State Registered Educator Preparation Programs Impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

May 4, 2020

New York State registered educator preparation programs¹ (EPPs) and candidates seeking New York State certification have experienced many challenges due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. After the release of the [guidance for educator preparation programs on March 30, 2020](#), the conditions in New York State related to COVID-19 have been continually changing. This guidance is an update to the March 30th guidance and is issued in partial response to the reopening of some of the test centers on May 1, 2020.

With the opening of test centers on May 1, candidates would be expected to take examinations again according to the March 30th guidance. Given the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic in our State, and the Governor's extension of the New York State on Pause executive order through at least May 15, the Department seeks to provide flexibility on the certification requirements and is creating an Emergency COVID-19 certificate and expanding the edTPA safety net to Summer 2020 New York State registered educator preparation program candidates, as further explained below.

Emergency COVID-19 Certificate

The Emergency COVID-19 certificate is valid for one year and available for candidates who seek one of the following certificates or extensions: Bilingual Education extension, Gifted Education extension, Initial or Professional certificate in the classroom teaching service, Initial or Professional certificate in the educational leadership service (School Building Leader, School District Leader, School District Business Leader), Initial Reissuance, Teaching Assistant certificate, School Administrator and Supervisor (SAS) Provisional Renewal, Subject in Grades 7-9 extension, Subject in Grades 5-9 or 7-12 for Students with Disabilities extension, Supplementary certificate, Transitional A certificate through the Option B pathway, Transitional B certificate, Transitional C certificate, or Transitional D certificate.

- **Application.** Candidates must apply for the certificate or extension sought (listed above) on or before September 1, 2020. They must also apply for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, in the same certificate title as the certificate or extension sought, on or before September 1, 2020. There is no fee to apply for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate.
- **Requirement.** To earn the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, candidates must have completed all requirements for the certificate or extension sought, other than the examination requirement(s), on or before September 1, 2020.
- **Eligible Candidates.** Candidates who may be eligible for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate include those who: complete or completed a New York State registered teacher or educational leadership preparation program leading to Initial or Professional certification, or a registered extension program, prior to the Fall 2020 term; seek Initial or Professional teacher certification, or certain extensions, through the "Individual Evaluation" pathway; and graduate or graduated from an acceptable out-of-state teacher or educational leadership preparation program and have less than three years of acceptable experience in another state prior to the Fall 2020 term (e.g., not eligible for the "Endorsement of a Certificate" pathway).

¹ New York State (NYS) registered educator preparation programs are approved by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to lead directly to NYS educator certification. They are listed on the [Inventory of Registered Programs](#). NYSED does not approve out-of-state educator preparation programs.

- **Renewal.** If candidates have not earned passing score(s) on the required certification examination(s) prior to the expiration date of the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, they can apply for a one-time, one-year extension of the certificate that extends the first Emergency COVID-19 certificate expiration date by one year. For renewal, candidates must receive a recommendation for the renewal from a principal and the superintendent in the New York State school district in which the candidate is employed, or a recommendation for the renewal from the BOCES district superintendent in the BOCES in which the candidate is employed.
- **Additional Information.** Additional information about this certificate is available on the [Emergency COVID-19 Certificate webpage](#).

edTPA Safety Net

The March 30th guidance related to the edTPA, allowing certain candidates to be exempt and instead take and pass the Assessment of Teaching Skills Written (ATS-W), is expanded to include candidates in New York State registered EPPs who will complete their student teaching or similar clinical experience in the Summer 2020 term. Specifically, candidates can take and pass the ATS-W in lieu of the edTPA if they meet the following [edTPA safety net](#) eligibility requirements:

- are enrolled in a New York State registered EPP during the Spring 2020 and/or Summer 2020 terms, including traditional, Transitional B, and Transitional C programs;
- completed a student teaching or similar clinical experience through traditional and/or alternative models during one or more of these terms; and
- are on a list submitted by the EPP dean or dean’s designee to the Office of Teaching Initiatives (OTI) verifying that the candidates could not complete their edTPA submission as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Clinical experiences within registered programs that are similar to student teaching include internships, residencies, Transitional B and C in-service components, and literacy and school library practica.

Eligible candidates who still choose to take the edTPA, but do not pass it, could take and pass the ATS-W, or pursue the edTPA Multiple Measures Review Process (MMRP), if they qualify. For candidates who meet the edTPA safety net eligibility requirements, and already took and passed the ATS-W in the past, the passing ATS-W score would be acceptable in lieu of the edTPA passing score.

The list submitted by the EPP dean or dean’s designee must only include candidates who are enrolled in the program during the Spring 2020 and/or Summer 2020 terms, completed a student teaching or similar clinical experience during one or more of these terms, and could not complete their edTPA submission as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The EPP dean or dean’s designee may send multiple lists over time to OTI and must send all lists by December 31, 2020 to: otiaadmin@nysed.gov.

New York State registered EPPs should inform candidates that they are or will be on a list submitted by the EPP dean or dean’s designee. Candidates would contact their program, rather than OTI, to find out if they are or will be on a list. OTI will only add candidates to a list at the request of the EPP dean or dean’s designee.

The Emergency COVID-19 certificate is also available to candidates who are eligible for the edTPA safety net and those who are not eligible for the edTPA safety net, such as New York State registered EPP

candidates who completed their student teaching experience prior to the Spring 2020 term or out-of-state candidates, if they meet the eligibility requirements for such certificate, as described above.

School District Leader, School District Business Leader, and Transitional D Candidates

School district leader (SDL) and school district business leader (SDBL) candidates are exempt from taking and passing the SDL and SDBL assessment, respectively, for program completion and for the institutional recommendation for Professional certification, if they completed all program requirements other than the examination requirement during the Fall 2019, Winter 2020, Spring 2020, or Summer 2020 terms. Candidates **would** need to take and pass the SDL or SDBL assessment to earn the Professional SDL or SDBL certificate, respectively.

Transitional D candidates are exempt from taking and passing the SDL assessment for the institutional recommendation for the Transitional D certification, if they completed all requirements for admitted candidates other than the examination requirement on or before September 1, 2020. Candidates **would** need to take and pass the SDL assessment to earn the Transitional D certificate.

SDL, SDBL, and Transitional D candidates may be eligible for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, if they do not take and pass the required examination for the Professional or Transitional D certificate sought and meet the eligibility requirements for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, as described above.