



NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION EDUCATOR PREPARATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

The Office of Higher Education (OHE) newsletter describes the current and upcoming activities related to higher education, with a particular focus on the preparation of educators. This newsletter, past newsletters, and a subscription link are available online on the [OHE website](#).

GUIDANCE FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Office of Higher Education is continuing to engage with various stakeholders to address educator preparation program and certification issues related to COVID-19. In response, the following guidance was developed and posted online. Future guidance related to programs will be posted on the [Office of College and University Evaluation website](#) and certification will be posted on the [Office of Teaching Initiatives website](#).

CERTIFICATION EXAM TEST CENTERS UPDATE

New York State-based Pearson VUE-owned test centers reopened for certification exam testing on May 1, 2020, where local guidance permits. The [NYSTCE website](#) provides information regarding scheduled test appointments and scheduling or rescheduling a test appointment.

Certification Examination Guidance. The [certification examination guidance](#) for New York State registered educator preparation programs outlines efforts to provide flexibility on the certification requirements, including creating a new [Emergency COVID-19 certificate](#), expanding the [edTPA safety net](#) to Summer 2020 candidates who are student teaching or in a similar clinical experience and could not complete their edTPA submission as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, and exempting specified assessments for certain school district leader (SDL), school district business leader (SDBL), and Transitional D candidates for program completion and/or institutional recommendation for certification purposes.

Guidance for Colleges and Universities. The [NYSED Coronavirus Guidance for Colleges and Universities](#) was updated on April 2, 2020. In the updates, the flexibility regarding offering courses/programs online that are not currently registered by NYSED in the distance education format was extended to the Summer 2020 term(s) and was extended to include new students who are enrolling for the first time in the Summer 2020 term(s). In addition, if present emergency circumstances create challenges associated with meeting clinical experience requirements in professional licensure programs, institutions should continue to contact NYSED concerning appropriate alternatives to meet requirements (e.g., clinical simulation options) and check the [Office of Professions COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) webpage](#) for updates on meeting clinical experience requirements.

BOARD OF REGENTS ITEMS

The Board of Regents approved the measures described in the [certification examination guidance](#) as well as the following measures.

Expiring Certificates. The Initial certificate, Initial Reissuance, Provisional certificate, and Provisional Renewal are valid for a limited period of time. These time-limited certificates have an expiration date of either August

31 or January 31, depending on the effective date of the certificate. The Board of Regents [adopted an emergency regulation](#) such that educators who hold an Initial certificate, Initial Reissuance, Provisional certificate, or Provisional Renewal with an expiration date of August 31, 2020 will have the expiration date extended to January 31, 2021 in order to provide them with the time needed to complete the requirements for the next level certificate given the COVID-19 crisis. The expiration dates will automatically be changed in the [TEACH online system](#).

Pass/Fail Grading. In response to some institutions recently implementing a pass/fail or similar grading policy, the Board of Regents [adopted an emergency regulation](#) to allow any undergraduate or graduate level content core or pedagogical core course, completed during the Spring, Summer, or Fall 2020 terms with a “pass” grade, or its equivalent, to count toward the content core or pedagogical core requirements for certification through the “Individual Evaluation” pathway. A “pass” grade is currently acceptable for the general core requirements in this pathway. The passing grade, or its equivalent, must be in accordance with the pass/fail grading policy, or its equivalent, at the institution of higher education (e.g., credit/no credit, pass/fail, satisfactory/unsatisfactory policy). For additional information, please see the related [memo to the field](#).

Special Class Subject Area Certification Requirement. The Board of Regents [adopted an emergency regulation](#) to extend the effective date for the subject area certification requirement for special education teachers who teach one or more subject areas in a special class in grades 7-12, with some or no students under alternate assessment, from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021 in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Specifically, now effective July 1, 2021, these teachers must either:

- Be certified in each subject area that they teach, or
- Meet the teaching experience requirement for the statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) and have an active SOCE application in the [TEACH online system](#) in each subject area that they teach.

There are several ways that special education teachers can become certified in a subject area. They can earn one of the certificates listed on the [Types of Certificates and License webpage](#) in a subject area. They can also earn subject area certification through the [limited extension](#), [SOCE](#), or [subject area extension](#). Faculty and candidates in special education teacher preparation programs can learn more about this requirement and the subject area certification options on the [Special Education Teacher Certification Options webpage](#).

GRADUATION MEASURES REGIONAL MEETINGS

The [regional meetings](#) designed to collect feedback on the State’s high school graduation measures have been postponed and will be rescheduled. The [online survey](#) provides an opportunity to give feedback and contains five guiding questions related to graduation measures. Information about the review of high school graduation measures is available on the [Graduation Measures website](#).

WEBSITES

- [Office of Higher Education](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Office of College and University Evaluation](#)
- [NYSED](#)
- [Board of Regents](#)
- [NYSTCE](#)
- [Professional Standards and Practices Board](#)

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