



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

MAY 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](#).

EMERGENCY COVID-19 CERTIFICATE INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The Emergency COVID-19 certificate is now available in TEACH. Please inform candidates who are seeking certain certificates and extensions that they may be eligible for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, allowing them to work in New York State public schools or districts for one year while taking and passing the required exams(s) for the certificate or extension sought. With this one-year emergency certificate, candidates would not need to take certification exams immediately and could take them at a later date. Information about the new emergency certificate is available on the [Emergency COVID-19 certificate webpage](#), including the requirements, one-time renewal, and application deadline of September 1, 2020.

Distance Education Flexibility in Fall 2020.

Registration of a program in the distance education format is normally required, if 50% or more of the program can be completed online. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and consistent with U.S. Department of Education updated guidance, institutions are granted flexibility to offer online courses in programs without triggering the need to add the distance education format to the program for the Fall 2020 semester. Please see the [memo dated May 20, 2020](#) for additional details regarding distance education flexibility in Fall 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Colleges and Universities.

This [FAQ document](#) clarifies and supplements the guidance document that was first issued on March 5, 2020 and updated on April 2, 2020, and responds to related questions received from the field. The FAQs are divided into two sections: Section 1 includes responses to questions of general applicability for colleges and universities, and Section 2 includes responses to questions specific to educator preparation programs.

Certification Examination Guidance. The [certification examination guidance](#) for New York State registered educator preparation programs dated May 4, 2020 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.

NEW YORK STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS (NYSTCE) TESTS BECOMING OPERATIONAL

Revised (May 2019) School Building Leader Assessment. It is anticipated that the Revised (May 2019) School Building Leader Assessment will become operational in November 2020. It is also anticipated that the assessment will have a safety net. The [assessment framework](#) is available on the [NYSTCE website](#) to assist candidates and school building leader preparation programs in the preparation of candidates for the revised assessment. After this assessment becomes operational, individuals can fulfill the [School Building Leader assessment requirement](#) for certification by passing: 1) Part One of either the Revised (Sept. 2013) School Building Leader Assessment or Revised (May 2019) School Building Leader Assessment, **and** 2) Part Two of either the Revised (Sept. 2013) School Building Leader Assessment or Revised (May 2019) School Building Leader Assessment.

Revised Arts Content Specialty Tests. It is anticipated that the revised Content Specialty Tests (CSTs) in Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts will become operational in November 2020. It is also anticipated that these CSTs will have a safety net. The test frameworks for the revised arts CSTs are available on the [NYSTCE website](#) to assist candidates and teacher preparation programs in the preparation of candidates for the revised tests.

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](#).



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