



DATE: April 3, 2020

TO: Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director, State Board of Education

RE: Credentialing Issues Due to COVID-19

Along with the many challenges COVID-19 has held for our schools and community at large, our associations have learned of credentialing issues facing our incoming teachers. Social distancing and school closures have resulted in closed testing sites, limited live scan options, and limited clinical practice and internship opportunities for California's aspiring teachers. The following list is a series of emerging issues that have been elevated by our members as issues of concern. We believe these require state flexibility:

1. Requesting extended time beyond the one year/school year timeline for:
 - a. Provisional Intern Permits (PIP)
 - b. Short Term Staffing Permits (STSP)
 - c. General Education Multiple Subject Limited Assignment Teaching Permit (GELAP)
 - d. Special Education Limited Assignment Teaching Permit (SELAP)
 - e. Emergency Cross-Cultural, Language and Academic Development (CLAD)
 - f. Out of State preliminary credential holders who need to take the CA Basic Educational Skills Test within the first year. Many of them also need to meet the English Learner requirement to clear their credential (because they did not have an equivalent authorization from their home state).
2. Candidates who are unable to complete their programs will be able to apply for an extension to their credential or, in the case of student teachers/residents, their program will be able to apply for a variable term waiver, enabling them to complete their requirements next year.
 - a. Requesting that application fees for an extension/Variable Term Waiver be waived and that flexibility be allowed regarding the evaluation requirement
 - b. Requesting that if an intern is working on an extension, the candidate will not incur extra costs associated with university/program supervision
3. Extend the length of time a substitute teacher is able to remain in the same classroom. Currently, a special education substitute teacher is allowed to teach in one classroom each for 20 days per year and 30 days for a general education teacher. If a teacher or his/her family member contracts COVID-19, the minimum time away from work is a hospital stay plus a 14 day quarantine.
 - a. Waive statute to allow a substitute teacher to remain in the same classroom until the teacher is able to return to work.
4. Pupil Personnel Services Credential candidates have fieldwork hours they need to complete in a school-based setting. With social distancing a challenge, program sponsors should allow extra time to complete fieldwork hours at no extra tuition cost to the candidate

Thank you so much for your help.



Peter Birdsall, CCSESA



Wes Smith, ACSA

Cc: Linda Darling-Hammond, President, State Board of Education
Jenny Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mary Vixie Sandy, Executive Director, Commission on Teacher Credentialing