



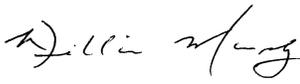
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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**To:** Deans/Directors of NYS Institutions Offering Educator Preparation Programs

**From:** William P. Murphy 

**Subject:** Educator Preparation Program Clinical Experience Flexibilities for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

The New York State Education Department recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic created significant challenges for registered educator preparation programs (EPPs) during the past academic year and will present new and recurring issues for programs in the upcoming academic year, particularly around clinical experiences. In response, several flexibilities are continuing into the upcoming academic year, such as having the [edTPA safety net](#) through the 2021-2022 academic year and allowing the [DASA training](#) to be offered entirely online through December 31, 2021.

In addition, the Department will continue permitting some flexibility regarding the use of alternative models of clinical experiences for EPPs during the 2021-2022 academic year, as described below. The alternative models of clinical experiences for the 2020-2021 academic year were described in the Department's higher education [reopening guidance](#) and are applicable through the Summer 2021 term. **Please read the following guidance in its entirety as there are some revisions to the prior clinical experience flexibilities beginning in Fall 2021.**

Alternative Models of Clinical Experiences

- “Clinical experiences” as discussed in this memorandum includes student teaching, residences, practica, field experiences prior to student teaching, Transitional B and C mentored in-service component, leadership experiences, and school counseling and school psychology supervised internship hours.
- Beginning with the Fall 2021 term and extending through the Summer 2022 term, the Department will continue to permit the use of alternative models of clinical experiences as follows:

- **Candidates enrolled in registered programs leading to teaching or pupil personnel services certificates:** Clinical experiences other than field experience hours prior to student teaching, including those leading to an additional certificate, must include **direct interaction** with cooperating teachers/mentors/supervisors and P-12 students, either in-person or remotely. These clinical experiences may be supplemented with alternative methods such as simulations, video case studies and other academic exercises, if necessary. These clinical experiences **may not** be completed entirely through alternative methods. **Field experience hours** prior to student teaching may continue to be completed entirely through alternative methods, if necessary.
- **Candidates enrolled in registered programs leading to educational leadership certificates:** Clinical experiences must include **direct interaction** with P-12 administrators, faculty, staff and/or students, either in person or remotely. These clinical experiences may be supplemented with alternative methods such as simulations, video case studies and other academic exercises focused on school or district leadership, if necessary.
- All clinical experiences must meet the minimum number of hours/days required in the Commissioner's Regulations.

Please note that this latest guidance does not require filing alternative model plans with the Office of College and University Evaluation. Questions about this guidance can be sent to [ocueinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:ocueinfo@nysed.gov).