



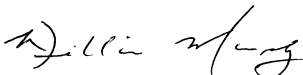
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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

From: William P. Murphy 

Subject: Alternative Models of Field Experiences for Registered Teacher Preparation Programs During the 2022-2023 Academic Year

During the Spring 2020 academic term, the New York State Education Department permitted New York State registered educator preparation programs to develop and implement alternative models of clinical experiences in response to the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the closure of schools. This flexibility was extended with modifications through the 2021-2022 academic year due to the continuing issues raised by the pandemic. This flexibility ended in Fall 2022 with schools across the state offering in-person instruction for students.

The Department has learned about some teacher preparation programs that had difficulty securing and providing **field experiences¹ prior to student teaching** for candidates during the Fall 2022 term due to extenuating circumstances beyond their control, such as programs not being able to obtain placements after exhaustive efforts. This situation has presented an additional challenge for programs that have been handling many issues since the onset of the pandemic.

Given this situation, the Department is extending the alternative models flexibility to teacher preparation programs during the 2022-2023 academic year with the following modifications. The academic year includes the Fall 2022 term through the Summer 2023 term.

Alternative Models of Field Experiences

- Field experiences can be completed through alternative models, if the program is not able to secure or provide placements for candidates due to extenuating

¹ *Field experience* means direct observation of teaching, participation in teaching, or teaching itself that is related to the teacher education program in which the candidate is enrolled; engaged in prior to student teaching or practica; and carefully selected and planned by program faculty (8 NYCRR 52.21(b)(1)(ix)).

circumstances beyond the program's control. These extenuating circumstances may include, but are not limited to, programs not being able to obtain placements after exhaustive efforts. The flexibility does not apply to **student teaching or practica**.

- The Dean or Director of Teacher Education Programs must notify the Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE) about the use of alternative models by completing the [“Notification of Alternative Models of Field Experiences” form](#) where they will describe the extenuating circumstances. The form can be completed any time during the academic year. Please note that, while OCUE will not be approving or disapproving the form, staff will be reviewing each form and may follow-up with programs for clarification. Institutions will be notified when their form has been processed.
- Alternative models may include, but are not limited to, completing clinical simulations and analyzing videos of best practice in the areas of planning, instruction, and assessment.
- Please note that remote learning experiences with students (e.g., students working from home) during field experiences, student teaching, and practica are acceptable and are not considered an alternative model, as described in the Office of Higher Education [August 2022 newsletter](#).

Questions about this flexibility can be sent to OCUE at: ocueinfo@nysed.gov.