

To: Deans, Unit Leaders, Certification Officers, Field & Clinical, and Assessment Directors
From: Jaimie Foulk, Ph.D., Coordinator, Educator Preparation
Margery Tanner, Coordinator, Educator Certification
Paul Katnik, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality
Re: Update Regarding EO 20-04 and Spring 2020 Semester
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020

The Office of Educator Quality wishes to provide important updates to educator preparation programs (EPPs) regarding Executive Order 20-04 in response to current education-related impacts of COVID-19 in Missouri. EO 20-04 provides a waiver of certain teacher certification requirements for candidates currently completing educator preparation programs, including culminating clinical experiences and exit examinations.

Per Governor Parson's March 18, 2020 waiver, requirements for any remaining culminating clinical experience and qualifying scores on exit exams have been waived for all students completing a Missouri educator preparation program leading to certification in the spring semester 2020. This means that for each educator candidate enrolled in a culminating student teaching or internship experience in the current semester, the remainder of any culminating clinical experience activities for these candidates will not be required. In addition, no performance assessment score (MEES for Teachers, Counselors, or Librarians; or MPEA for Principals, Career Education Directors, or Special Education Directors) will be required to be reported for these candidates by their recommending EPP at the time of certification application. Finally, due to the continued closure of testing sites across the state, the Missouri Content Assessment (MoCA) required qualifying score is waived for those candidates.

Certification: For each affected candidate who meets the guideline of enrollment in the culminating clinical experience during the current academic semester, EPPs' certification officers will be asked to verify eligibility by copying the following text into the memo section of the electronic certification application:

I verify that this student was enrolled in a culminating clinical experience or internship during the Spring 2020 semester and was therefore impacted by the temporary suspension of specific certification requirements, in regard to qualifying scores on exit examinations and completion of culminating clinical experience as specified in Missouri Executive Order 20-04.

Please note, this is an update to previous communications from our office and is consistent with EO 20-04 of Governor Parson's office.

Thank you for your continued efforts for Missouri educators. Please direct any additional questions to:

Educator Preparation:

<https://dese.mo.gov/educator-quality/educator-preparation> | eqprep@dese.mo.gov | 573-751-1668

Educator Certification:

<https://dese.mo.gov/educator-quality/certification> | certification@dese.mo.gov | 573-751-0051