



Dear Colleagues,

First and foremost, thank you for all you are doing to keep educator preparation candidates and our PK-12 partners safe! I know this has been an extremely challenging time as you plan and prepare to meet the guidelines of your own institutions in addition to those of the schools and districts with which you work.

Clinical hours and field experiences are an integral part of every preparation program and we appreciate all you've done to make sure they remain so. Some districts are returning this fall remaining completely online, some will start online and move to hybrid or in-person options, and others are beginning the school year meeting fully in-person. The expectation is that student teaching candidates will utilize whichever format their mentors are using.

Recall that C.R.S. §23-1-121(2)(d) requires that teacher preparation candidates must complete a minimum of 800 hours of clinical practice and principal and administrator candidates must complete 300 hours. This includes the range of methods and formats used by Colorado public schools to provide instruction to students in response to COVID-19, provided the candidates are under the direct supervision of a mentor teacher. Please continue to work with your PK-12 partners to ensure clinical practice placements.

Over the summer a newly formed Denver Area Clinical Practice Collaborative (DACPC) met to discuss ways to support candidates and mentor teachers in clinical placements. The collective work of the DACPC is about preparing qualified and caring teachers to serve our PK-12 students and supporting the important collaboration and essential partnership between the EPP and school districts. They offer the following resources to support this critical shared work. [Resources for Collaborating on Clinical Experiences](#); [Summary of DACPC Summer Work](#)

Please continue to use whatever methods you currently employ to track candidates' clinical hours and successful completion of their practical experience. Candidates may have to make up clinical hours. This will be determined by each institution. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the method of continuity employed by the PK-12 school/district and any future closures.



For more information, see the [Colorado Department of Higher Education's Planning for Return to Campus During COVID-19: Considerations and Recommendations and FAQs.](#)

Please see the following for more [Resources for Colleges/Universities](#) and links to [College/University COVID-Specific Webpages.](#)

The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) is the lead agency on response. [CDPHE's webpage](#) has up-to-date information on the number of confirmed cases and the guidance released to schools when [responding to COVID-19 cases and outbreaks.](#)

Sincerely,



Brittany Lane  
Director, Educator Preparation  
Colorado Department of Higher Education

