



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 2, 2020

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Educator Preparation Programs Deans and Directors

Route To: Human Resources Directors, Faculty and Staff Placing and Supporting Clinical Interns (Student Teachers)

From: Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance

Notice of Rule Modification for Certification Performance Assessments

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has adopted emergency temporary rule modifications regarding the performance assessment requirements for teacher candidates and those pursuing the teacher leader endorsement.

Some student teachers, alternate route teachers, and those teachers seeking standard certification through reciprocity have experienced challenges related to the COVID-19 public health emergency that have interfered with the ability to provide instructional evidence for the teacher performance assessment (edTPA) required for certification.

Therefore, the rule modifications, which are summarized on the [COVID-19 Guidance webpage](#), provide flexibilities for candidates who are not able to complete the edTPA in the usual manner with national scoring. These flexibilities apply to candidates who are enrolled in state-approved educator preparation programs as of September 1, 2020 and successfully complete the program by the end of the semester in which the public health emergency ends.

This rule modification also allows state-approved teacher leader preparation programs to alternatively assess candidates for the teacher leader endorsement in lieu of a Commissioner-approved teacher leader performance assessment.

Additional information

For additional information, refer to the COVID-19 Guidance webpage referenced above. For questions, please email rpr@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
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