

COVID-19 Emergency Regulations Part VIII

February 8, 2021



COVID-19 Pandemic

- As a result of the pandemic and the Governor's numerous Executive Orders, the Department has adopted numerous emergency regulations to address the issues resulting from the interruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis and to plan for the reopening of schools.
- The Department is proposing further regulatory changes to provide additional flexibility to institutions of higher education, certificate holders, applicants for certification, and candidates in educator preparation programs, to address anticipated issues resulting from the continued interruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Accreditation

- At its September 2020 meeting, the Board of Regents provided institutions of higher education (IHEs) with an additional year to complete the process for accreditation of their educator preparation programs, if they pursue accreditation from a professional education accrediting association acceptable to the Department that is seeking recognition from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or USDOE.
- Some IHEs have both initial level and advanced level educator preparation programs whose initial level programs are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), but their advanced level programs have not yet been reviewed and accredited by CAEP.
- The Department proposes to amend section 52.21 of the Commissioner's regulations such that these institutions may wait for the next accreditation review of their initial level programs to have their advanced level programs reviewed and accredited by CAEP, and those programs will be considered continuously accredited during that time period.
- This amendment will provide these IHEs with additional time to complete the process for accreditation of their advanced level programs during the pandemic.

Student Teaching

- Currently, registered teacher preparation programs must revise their student teaching and partnership requirements for candidates who first enroll in a registered program in the Fall 2022 semester or thereafter. The requirements include to:
 - Change the student teaching experience from 40 days to a full semester of at least 14 weeks in length;
 - Establish MOUs or similar collaborative agreements related to clinical experiences; and
 - Ensure clinical experiences during community college programs, where applicable.
- The Department proposes to amend section 52.21 of the Commissioner's regulations such that the required program changes would apply to candidates who first enroll in a registered program in the Fall 2023 semester, instead of the Fall 2022 semester, or thereafter.
- This amendment provides such programs with additional time to make revisions, if needed, during the pandemic.

Individual Evaluation Pathway to Certification

- The Department also proposes to amend section 80-3.7 of the Commissioner's regulations to extend the date by which candidates who apply for certification through the Individual Evaluation pathway must satisfy a longer teaching experience requirement (e.g., 14 weeks instead of 40 days) from September 1, 2026 to September 1, 2027.
- This proposed one-year extension for candidates aligns certification with the proposed amendments to section 52.21 providing a one-year extension for registered teacher preparation programs to revise their student teaching and partnership requirements in response to the pandemic.

Computer Science SOCE

- At its March 2018 meeting, the Board of Regents established the Computer Science certificate and statement of continued eligibility (SOCE).
- Currently, for the Computer Science SOCE, teachers must be employed as teachers of computer science courses within the five years immediately preceding September 1, 2022 in a New York State public school, BOCES, or other school where teacher certification is required.
- Since the pandemic may have prompted some school districts not to offer as many, or any, computer science courses, which may impact teachers' eligibility for the SOCE, the Department proposes to amend section 80-3.14 of the Commissioner's regulations to:
 - extend the application deadline for the Computer Science SOCE from September 1, 2022 to September 1, 2023; and
 - allow teachers to be employed as teachers of computer science courses within six years immediately preceding September 1, 2023, rather than five years.

Computer Science Tenure Area

- Consistent with the proposed Computer Science SOCE amendments, the Department also proposes to amend section 30-1.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents to extend the dates listed in the computer science tenure regulations from September 1, 2022 to September 1, 2023.
- With the proposed Computer Science tenure area and SOCE regulations, teachers of computer science courses would not need to hold the Computer Science certificate or SOCE until September 1, 2023.



Questions?