south dakota
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GUIDANCE STUDENT TEACHING - CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION EO2020-10

Questions and Answers:

1. Will the South Dakota Department of Education allow for flexibility of student teaching requirements and the pedagogy test because of COVID-19?

Yes.

- Candidates who have not completed the number of required days of student teaching, but meet the definition of minimum student teaching requirements, may receive university sign-off and a traditional five-year certificate if all other requirements are met.

- Universities may be flexible regarding the definition of student teaching days. For example, the time candidates are creating online learning opportunities for students, assisting teachers develop assignments, etc. can be counted as time spent for student teaching.

- Candidates who are unable to complete student teaching because of COVID-19 will be allowed to receive a one-year conditional certificate.

- Candidates who are unable to take or complete the praxis pedagogy requirement may apply for a one-year conditional certificate.

2. What are the minimum student teaching requirements for candidates to receive traditional sign-off?

- **Current Requirement: 10 Week Experience (50 days)**
  The minimum requirement for candidates impacted by COVID-19 is the completion of 35 school days and demonstration all competencies per ARSD 24:53:06:03 (1) are met.

- **Current Requirement: 15 Week Experience (75 days)**
  The minimum requirement for candidates impacted by COVID-19 is the completion of 56 school days and demonstration all competencies per ARSD 24:53:06:03 (1) are met.

3. Who is eligible for a one-year conditional certificate?

- If a candidate has not completed the minimum student teaching requirements because of Covid-19 but has passed the pedagogy test, the candidate is eligible for the certificate.

- If a candidate has completed the minimal student teaching requirements but is unable to complete the praxis pedagogy test because of closure to the testing facility, the candidate is eligible for the certificate.

- If a candidate has not completed the minimum student teaching requirements because of Covid-19 and is unable to complete the praxis pedagogy test because of closure to the testing facility, the candidate is eligible for the certificate.

Process for utilizing the Covid-19 University Sign-off form and Conditional Certificate:

Step 1: Universities determine candidates impacted by COVID-19.

Step 2: University certification officer (UCO) will complete the COVID-19 university sign-off form and give to candidate.

Step 3: University should direct candidate to access the online application system and apply for certification using the COVID-19 Conditional Application.

If a candidate has already submitted the Initial Educator Application, but meets the requirements for the Conditional Certificate, the candidate should be informed of the new guidance. University certification officers (UCOs) should add a comment in the university sign-off system and email the sign-off form to certification@state.sd.us. It will then be uploaded to the candidate's application.

Step 4: Candidates must complete the COVID-19 Conditional Application, submit the $25 licensing fee and provide the following documents:

- Transcript reflecting completion of bachelor's degree
- Suicide Awareness
- COVID-19 University Sign-off form

Step 5: The UCO will need to complete the online UCO Sign-off for each candidate.

- Degree Screen – verify degree has been completed
- Certificate Type – verify the certificate type the candidate should receive
- Preparation Type – select the preparation the candidate would have received if all requirements were met
- State-Designated Tests - Select the tests that have been passed by the candidate
- Endorsements - Select the endorsements for which the candidate has met all requirements
- Comment – Include a comment that identifies the candidate is eligible for the one-year Conditional Certificate

Step 6: Applications will be processed, and the candidate will receive a one-year conditional certificate with an expiration date of June 30, 2021.

Step 7: Prior to June 30, 2021, candidates must complete the remaining requirements for program completion.

Step 8: By June 30, 2021, candidates must apply for the five-year educator certificate using the COVID-19 Transition Application. Universities will need to sign-off on program completion.