



The Washington Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

***WACTE: 28 Educational
Preparation Programs for
Teacher Education at
50+ locations throughout
Washington State:***

**Antioch University
Central Washington
University
Centralia College
City University of Seattle
Eastern Washington
University
Gonzaga University
Grays Harbor College
Heritage University
Highline College
Lower Columbia College
NW Educ. Development
Northwest University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pierce College
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
Saint Martin's University
The Evergreen State College
University of Puget Sound
University of WA Bothell
University of WA Seattle
University of WA Tacoma
Walla Walla University
Washington State University
Whitworth University
Western Governor's
University
Western WA University
Yakima Valley College**

March 27, 2020

Dear WACTE Deans and Directors:

I hope this email finds you well, sheltering in place, and dealing with the sudden and rapid shift in our work and personal lives. I was just describing my changed circumstances to non-university friends as trying to learn how to juggle while treading water. I suspect you are feeling the same way!

1. Attached, please find the Executive Board's advisory statement for programs regarding the emergency rules. The principles guiding our development of this advisory statement were the following:

- Convey rule information so each program can operate with a degree of consistency.
- Make sure it provides advice in consideration of programs, teacher candidates, and school partners with a lens on K-12 students also being the "end beneficiary" of the teacher who benefits from these rules. (This letter is not meant to be handed to students or districts directly, but to provide that guidance for programs.)
- Make sure it is flexible enough so that programs in all their many variations are reflected.

While we hope we have covered all circumstances, if we have not, please send Joyce or me feedback in this regard. This is a work in progress, and we hope you can operate within the spirit of it rather than spending time wordsmithing.

2. We have asked Alex Manuel about guidance around fingerprinting concerns (the inability to do them right now) and the basic content test (the closure of centers for attempting them). She says they are working on a further guidance and will issue those statements next week. She also noted that Pearson will also issue guidance around evidence of instruction that will be acceptable.

3. At our WACTE meeting at PLU in January, I asked Deans and Directors to provide more institution-specific feedback during public comment periods of PESB Meetings. PESB assumes all is well if they don't hear from us. I hope that you will follow through on this so that concerns of your faculty and staff are shared with PESB. As a starter, please check in with your data administrators, field directors, and certification officers so that you are able to share stories from your institution for PESB members to hear.

4. WACTE is also working on additional feedback to PESB regarding concerns around the Indicator Model as not providing much information for program improvement, the pace at which the data manuals are being modified and approved, and further thoughts around edTPA. You may receive some requests for information about this from Executive Board members.
5. Yesterday, Bob Cooper shared that OSPI has sent out some guidance on resuming school educational activities via distance education means.

OSPI guidance on continuing “school” is here:

https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/bulletinsmemos/bulletins2020/4_Guidance%20for%20Long-term%20School%20Closures%20as%20of%20March%2023.pdf

And OSPI guidance in regard to working with students with disabilities is here:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/specialed/pubdocs/Providing-Services-SWDs-School-Closures-QandA.pdf>

This is one way to increase instructional opportunities for students, but technological capacity for some districts/schools and families is going to be an issue as is clarity around the role of the teacher. This will obviously affect those institutions that are going to try to continue teacher candidate clinical hours through distance means.

That’s it for now. I hope that you are finding ways to limit your screen time (less Zoom?), ignore the 24-hour news cycle, and spend time with loved ones (2 and 4 legged ones). While we must physically distance ourselves, let’s not lose sight of the fact that we are a relational profession—our students and colleagues need our support more than ever!

Warmly,

Tariq Akmal
WACTE President
2019-2020