

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)

Teacher Qualifications and Impact on Educator Practicums

This guidance is for students completing practicums for college credit as a part of a degree program through an accredited College or University, as a part of a Chapter 74, Non Chapter 74, EEC High School Approved Early Education Program, and the Jump Start Corps Program.

EEC understands how child care program, high school, college/university closures due to COVID-19 have impacted students and educators who were in the process of completing the required practicum hours to fulfill the EEC practicum requirements.

In response, EEC is waiving [606 CMR 7.09\(18\)\(a\)\(2\), Practicum](#) for educators who meet the criteria set forth below. This policy waiver only addresses the required work experience educators need to meet EEC certification requirements. Educators must still meet all of the educational course requirements in order to meet the criteria set forth below. *Waivers will not be considered for those who completed less than 50% of the required practicum hours.*

COVID-19 Policy Waiver for EEC Practicum Requirements:

- **Category 1:** *Educators who complete at least 50% (75 hours) to meet our practicum requirements and receive a recommendation from their College Advisor or Program Director from the Chapter 74/EEC Approved High School will be given a waiver for the remaining 50% of their hour requirements.*
 - Educators completing practicums through a college/university degree program will be required to complete the **Professional Certification Application Packet For Covid-19 Waiver**.
 - Educators completing practicum requirements through a Chapter 74/EEC Approved High School Early Education program must complete the [Professional Qualification Certification Chapter 74 Vocational and EEC Approved High School Program Application](#) and have the Program Director submit the following to EEC:
 - A letter on the school's letterhead indicating the total number of practicum hours completed, the age group the student completed the practicum hours with, and a clearly stated recommendation for EEC certification that the student met the competency requirements to obtain EEC Certification.
- **Category 2:** *Educators who complete at least 50% (75 hours) to meet our practicum requirements but does not receive recommendation from their College Advisor or Program Director from the high school will not be given a waiver and must complete the remaining 75 hours over the summer or fall semester when early learning programs re-open.*
 - Upon this completion, educators completing practicums through a College/University degree program will be required to complete the [EEC General Work Experience form](#) when the practicum hours are complete along with a letter from the College Advisor or equivalent confirming the practicum hours.

- Upon completing these practicum requirements through a Chapter 74/EEC Approved High School Early Education program, submit the following to EEC:
 - A letter on the school's letterhead indicating the total number of practicum hours completed, the age group the student completed the practicum hours with, and a clearly stated recommendation for EEC certification that the student met the competency requirements to obtain EEC Certification. The student must complete the remaining hours and submit all of the required documents with a completed [EEC General Work Experience form](#), signed by the supervisor of the EEC Licensed program where the work experience is gained.
- *Category 3: Jump Start Corps Member who complete at least 50% (150 hours) to meet our practicum requirements and receives a recommendation from their Program Director will be given a waiver for the remaining 50% of their hour requirements.*
 - Educators completing practicums through Jump Start program will be required to complete the **Professional Certification Application Packet For Covid-19 Waiver**.

Educators who fall into the above categories must follow the process outlined above. Questions related to the **COVID-19 Policy Waiver for EEC Practicum Requirements** may be submitted to the EEC Teacher Qualifications Unit at eecprofdev@mass.gov.