

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 2020

TO: Deans of Approved North Dakota Educator Preparation Institutions

FROM: Rebecca Pitkin, Executive Director, Education Standards and Practices Board

SUBJECT: Licensure Updates

As you know, a state of emergency was declared by Governor Burgum, and the Attorney General's office has indicated, because we are now in a state of emergency, only the Governor is able to provide waivers and exemptions for any of our rules-not the Education Standards and Practices Board.

As necessitated by the extended periods of state-ordered K-12 school closure, programs have the flexibility to determine if candidates are close to the 10 weeks of pre-service teaching required, and IHE's may waive a portion of the required weeks. This is also advised by the AG's office. If for some reason they have not demonstrated satisfactory fulfillment of state and institutional expectations, a plan should take place at the institution. Pre-service teachers should also plan and participate in virtual teaching and learning opportunities, as arranged by the district and institution.

We are monitoring how many applicants contact us and we provide options and plans specific to their situations. We recommend students call us if they have questions. We may develop waiver requests as deemed necessary.

We currently have an Alternate Access license which is our form of an emergency license which can be issued to individuals who have completed everything except the Praxis or preservice teaching-if they have a 4-year degree.

The Education Standards and Practices Board also has a 40-day license which can be issued to individuals whose background checks have not been returned from the FBI/BCI. There are several elements of checks and balances within this process, and it enables a school to hire an individual while they await the return of the final background check.

This is uncharted territory. Regional directors from NASDTEC are meeting in the morning to assess the national licensure landscape and share solutions.

Thank you for your concern and if you have additional questions, please contact me via email at rpitkin@nd.gov or via phone 701.328.9646