

July 1, 2020

Dear District and School Partners:

As all of our state's educator preparation programs plan for the coming school year, the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education want to thank you for all that you do in partnering with our prep leaders on the clinical experiences that candidates need on their way to earning state licensure. We recognize and value the work that you do to host candidates in early field practica as well as in culminating experiences like residencies and student teaching. With the dedication and expertise of your mentors and building leaders, educator preparation programs are able to grow the next generation of educators who will serve your districts and schools.

In light of the fact that COVID-19 continues to be a part of our reality, please know how much we value your work with preparation leaders and faculty. We understand that the times have created changes none of us could have imagined, so we have been engaged in discussions with our deans of education about the ways in which clinical experiences might shift and align to preK-12 school needs and expectations. Should schools need to meet online candidates may have extensive technological skill and can serve small groups when not all students are physically together in a classroom. Candidates may bring knowledge and experiences of virtual online teaching and learning that can strengthen their novice teaching practices.

As both school districts and universities continue to plan for the start of a new academic year this fall, please know that educator preparation leaders are open to considering options for the supportive roles that their candidates can play, always with the goal of providing meaningful learning experiences for preK-12 students. Leaders are ready to support the expectations developed locally when reaching out to you as partners who help guide and construct candidates' experiences. We know that all of us continue to share a vision of novice and veteran teachers working collaboratively, learning from one another to strengthen education in Colorado and serve students and families in this difficult time.

As you receive requests to partner and host candidates, please know that both departments are here to help. If you have any needs or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

With much gratitude,



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