# Superintendent’s Memo #200-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: August 7, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Flexibility of Requirements for Licensure of Instructional Personnel

As school divisions begin to make local decisions on reopening plans for the 2020-2021 academic school year, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is reviewing statutory and regulatory requirements set out in the *Code of Virginia* that cannot be met as a direct result of the declared state of emergency due to COVID-19. VDOE has been fielding questions and concerns related to the impact of the variety of school reopening plans on the licensing of instructional personnel and candidates completing approved educator preparation programs at Virginia colleges and universities. When possible, modifications to regulations will be made regarding the issuance of licenses and requirements for candidates completing programs at our institutions of higher education.

Below are a series of questions and answers to address inquiries and concerns received by the VDOE.

**What if individuals cannot complete the hands-on cardiopulmonary resuscitation CPR training required for an initial teaching license or license renewal pursuant to**[**§ 22.1-298.1.D**](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter15/section22.1-298.1/#:~:text=Officers%20and%20Employees-,%C2%A7%2022.1%2D298.1.,A.&text=The%20Board%20of%20Education%20shall,required%20to%20hold%20a%20license.)**in the *Code of Virginia*?**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is granting an extension to the existing waiver that any individual seeking an initial license or renewal of licensure and who has completed all other components of training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillator shall be relieved of the requirement to have hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation for the purpose of their licensure application until June 30, 2021.

**What if an individual cannot complete the new required training related to behavior intervention and support required for an initial teaching license required by the 2020 General Assembly?**

An individual seeking initial licensure as a teacher who has not received the instruction described in [subsection D of § 23.1-902](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title23.1/chapter9/section23.1-902/) shall have until January 1, 2021, to provide documentation of the completion of instruction or training on positive behavior interventions and supports; crisis prevention and de-escalation; the use of physical restraint and seclusion, consistent with regulations of the Board of Education; and appropriate alternative methods to reduce and prevent the need for the use of physical restraint and seclusion. Please note that this extension does not apply to the requirement, effective July 1, 2020, that education preparation programs offered by public institutions of higher education and private institutions of higher education shall ensure that, as a condition of degree completion, each student enrolled in the education preparation program receives instruction on positive behavior interventions and supports; crisis prevention and de-escalation; the use of physical restraint and seclusion, consistent with regulations of the Board of Education; and appropriate alternative methods to reduce and prevent the need for the use of physical restraint and seclusion.

**What is the impact of virtual school reopenings on candidates completing student teaching/internships practicums this summer and fall in educator preparation programs at Virginia colleges and universities or career switcher programs?**

The VDOE has communicated with deans and directors of educator preparation programs and directors of career switcher programs to provide flexibility in the modality of the Board of Education student teaching/internship/practicum requirements due to the virtual reopening of schools. Any modification requests for the summer and fall 2020 from deans or directors of educator preparation programs will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.  A form has been provided to institutions of higher education and career switcher directors to request modifications.

The VDOE continues to evaluate options to provide flexibility in meeting the requirements associated with licensing of instructional personnel. As information becomes available, it is added to the Virginia Department of Education’s [FAQ document](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19-faq-reopening.shtml) that is posted on the front page of our [website](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/).

Additional questions related to initial licensure or renewal, may be directed to Maggie M. Clemmons, Director of Licensure and School Leadership, at Maggie.Clemmons@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 371-2471. Questions related to teacher education programs at Virginia colleges and universities may be directed to Tara McDaniel, Director of Teacher Education at Tara.McDaniel@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 692-0251.

JFL/mmc