Dear teacher candidates:

For those of you student teaching this semester, we know you have many questions related to completion of your experience with the evolving governmental policies related to the coronavirus pandemic. As always, please be assured that we are working in close communication with the CSU team and with the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) to implement fair policies that do not penalize candidates for situations out of their control.

Here is what we know currently.

1. **Clinical experience hours.** ODHE is offering flexibility in meeting the number of weeks and/or hours required for Educator Preparation Program students whose clinical experiences have been impacted by the COVID-19 virus. **All candidates who have made satisfactory progress through the date that schools were closed will be eligible for licensure recommendation as long as we can document that you have achieved the expectations and outcomes associated with the experience.**
    a. **Online Instruction**. If your district is offering online instruction for students, we encourage you to collaborate with your mentor teacher to assist in the delivery of online instruction. While this is not a requirement for completion of student teaching, this is good professional development for you and may provide valuable assistance for your mentor teacher.
2. **Demonstration of mastery.** CSU must submit a plan to ODHE to ensure that candidates achieve the expectations and outcomes associated with their clinical experiences. CSU's plan will require that all candidates complete <u>one</u> of the following options:
    a. **edTPA submission.** As long as you have taught the learning segment and gathered all necessary edTPA materials, we strongly urge you to complete and submit the edTPA by the originally scheduled due date of April 7. edTPA is currently being used by other states as a licensure requirement so having this score may help you earn out-of-state licensure. Your edTPA score will provide you with external feedback on your teaching skills, and you can use a high edTPA score on a resume to set you apart from the crowd. Finally, to acknowledge the fact that your materials may have been gathered hastily, we will reduce the required cut score. Keep in mind that you have already paid for this submission through your lab fees, and although we will explore options for refund for those not submitting, we are not certain at this time whether refunds are available or how quickly they can be processed.
    b. **Checkpoint 3 self-analysis**. At previous checkpoints, you have completed a self-analysis of strengths and areas for improvement in the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession. If you do not have enough materials to complete your edTPA, you will access a new Taskstream template, upload edTPA unit plans as a choice artifact, reflect on all 7 Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession, and identify new professional goals. (You will be able to use your completed edTPA Context for Learning, Planning Commentary, and Instructional Commentary to substitute for some of the standards). Your submission will be graded by your CSU supervisor.
3. **edTPA help.**
    a. **In-person Help and edTPA Upload sessions canceled.** CSU policy does not allow us to hold in-person help sessions as scheduled due to the impossibility of limiting group sizes

and maintaining social distance while providing support. CSU is strongly discouraging students from coming to campus for any reason.

    b. **Virtual help sessions.** OFS staff will still be available via email or phone. Contact Sharyn Turner, s.e.morgan@csuohio.edu. OFS will send information to those who signed up for in-person help sessions to access virtual help through a Zoom session. You will be able to share your computer screen so staff can assist.

    c. **Informational Materials**. Guidance and tutorials are available through the OFS web site at https://cehs.csuohio.edu/office-of-field-services/edtpa-support. Voucher codes and upload instructions will be sent separately.

    d. **Equipment**. If you are in need of a laptop to complete edTPA or other tasks, please complete the online survey at https://www.csuohio.edu/coronavirus-update/remote-learning-survey to identify your needs and receive follow-up support.

4. **Seminars.** As with other face-to-face classes, seminars will be moved online to continue to provide instruction in planning, teaching, assessing, and managing the classroom learning environment.

As previously noted, the College of Education and Human Services is committed to the health and safety of all candidates. We continue to urge everyone to implement the personal prevention protection methods to prevent flu and other infectious diseases as recommended by the CDC:

- **Stay home. Practice social distancing at all times.**
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; dry hands with a clean towel or air-dry hands.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Use wipes where available to disinfect high-touch surfaces (door handles, light switches, desks, phones, computer keyboards, etc.)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

We will work to keep you updated as the situation evolves. Continue to monitor your CSU email for updates.