



Waivers

- **Licensing waivers:** [OAR 584-200-0100](#)
 - The TSPC executive director may waive requirements, in whole or in part, if the applicant provides evidence of the skills, experience, and knowledge that demonstrates mastery of the Commission-adopted standards for the license.
 - Applicants must apply for these waivers. Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) may not request these waivers on behalf of candidates.
 - These waivers are reported to the Commission.

- **Program waivers:**
 - **COVID-19:**
 - These waiver requests were granted due to provisions in the TSPC COVID Response Plan dated March 23, 2020. After submission by EPPs to TSPC of Work Sample or local evaluation requests, the EPPs were approved to submit a single waiver request for all students using those plans in lieu of edTPA. The executive director directly approved waiver requests, which are then required to be reported to the Commission at the next regular Commission meeting.
 - The candidate portion of these waivers must have been completed by June 30, 2021.

 - **TSPC executive director waivers:**

The Commission has provided approval authority to the TSPC Executive Director in certain circumstances. These approved waiver requests are reported to the Commission at the next regular Commission meeting. Examples include:

 - **edTPA:**
 - [June 2017 Commission meeting](#): The Commission granted authority to the Executive Director for near-completer candidates unable to be considered completers due to failing test scores that became passing scores when the Commission changed the cut-scores (the lowest passing scores) for certain tests in [April 2017](#) and [June 2017](#). These candidates completed Work Sample because it was the requirement in place at the time. The waiver authority was to accept Work Sample rather than edTPA, which is the requirement now in place.
 - [November 2018 Commission meeting](#): It became clear there were other situations when the Executive Director needed waiver authority to accept Work Sample rather than edTPA. At this meeting, the Commission granted authority to the Executive Director:
 - When there was a lapse in time between candidate completion and application for licensure and Work Sample was used rather than edTPA because it was the requirement in place at that time;
 - When a candidate substantially completed coursework when Work Sample was required but did not complete some component, such as testing. The candidate now meets that requirement and an EPP is willing to submit a Program Completion Report (PCR) attesting that the candidate meets the requirements to be considered a quality educator; and
 - In other similar types of circumstances that, in the judgement of the executive director, meet the intent of this authority.

- *Former EPP candidates:*
 - In [February 2021](#), the Commission granted authority to the Executive Director or designee to approve certain actions for former Oregon EPP candidates, under limited circumstances, such as:
 - An EPP did not submit a PCR for a candidate because one was not required at that time and the candidate did not plan to apply for licensure. The candidate now wishes to apply for licensure but the EPP is closed and cannot submit a PCR for the candidate. TSPC has evidence the candidate successfully completed all requirements.
 - An EPP did not submit a PCR for a candidate because one was not then required. The candidate now wants to provide evidence to Washington state that they completed a program but the EPP is now closed and cannot submit the PCR. TSPC has evidence that the candidate has successfully completed all requirements.
 - A candidate was unable to pass their content test due to testing center closures during the COVID-19 pandemic but otherwise met all completion requirements. The candidate now meets the exam requirements and is fully qualified as a completer; however, the institution they attended no longer exists and is unable to submit a PCR on behalf of the candidate. TSPC has evidence that the candidate has successfully completed all requirements.
 - Other examples not specifically included here when there are similar types of circumstances not currently anticipated that, in the judgement of the Executive Director, meet the intent of this authority.
- **Commission-required waiver requests:** [OAR 584-400-0190](#) – *Waiver of State Standards*
 - EPPs may request Commission approval for waivers of state standards where rule does not allow the EPP to approve waivers but does not specifically prohibit waivers (such as pre-service clinical practice waivers).
 - These requests are reviewed by PAC and either approved for consideration of approval to the full Commission, returned to the requesting EPP with a request for additional information, or disapproved.
 - Waiver requests approved by PAC are placed on the Commission’s program consent agenda at the next regular Commission meeting.
 - Examples of Commission-required waivers include:
 - Candidate sought approval of an alternative edTPA handbook in a closely related area due to a candidate error in handbook selection. [June 2021, 5.1h](#)
 - Candidate program completions: Near-completer candidates lacked one or two content tests. These candidates would likely have qualified for multiple measures had that process been available when the candidates completed their coursework. These waiver requests require EPP and school district support and an otherwise strong academic history. Prior to the October 2021 PAC and November 2021 Commission meetings, these requests were reviewed by the Executive Director and submitted to the full Commission on the program consent agenda. Beginning October 2021, these waiver requests are now reviewed by PAC increase process consistency. [June 2021, 5.1j](#), [June 2020, 5.1k](#)
 - Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, EPP was unable to obtain a standard clinical placement for a limited number of pre-service candidates in order to fulfill the clinical program expectations for their clinical experiences. The EPP developed alternative plans to demonstrate content competency. [February 2021, 5.1d](#)

- **EPP waivers:**

- ***In-service candidates:***

EPPs may waive coursework and clinical placement requirements for in-service candidates. These waivers must be reported in their annual reports and must meet the following requirements:

- *Coursework waivers:* EPPs must describe how they determined and documented candidate competencies and knowledge. [OAR 584-400-0180 \(1\)-\(2\)](#)
- *Clinical practice waivers:* EPPs must describe how they determined the candidates demonstrated the ability to foster student learning. [OAR 584-400-0180 \(4\)](#)

- ***Partial waivers of clinical placements:*** [OAR 584-400-0140 \(13\)](#)

EPPs may grant partial waivers of clinical practice requirements if candidates are unable to complete the clinical practice due to an unforeseen school or district closure. These partial waivers must be reported in the EPPs' next annual reports.

- **Waiver prohibitions:**

- ***Pre-service candidates:***

- EPPs may not waive clinical practice requirements for pre-service candidates in the endorsement area in which they are completing their teacher performance assessment (e.g. edTPA or Work Sample). [OAR 584-400-0180 \(3\)](#)
- EPPs may not waive the teacher performance assessment for candidates in a Preliminary Teaching License program. [OAR 584-400-0180 \(5\) \(a\)](#)

- ***Pre-service and in-service candidates:*** [OAR 584-400-0180 \(5\) \(c\)](#)

EPPs may not waive completion of the Commission-adopted subject-matter exam or other Commission-adopted subject matter assessment related to the endorsement area as required in the Program Review and Standards Handbook.