



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 22, 2020
TO: Michigan Alternative Route to Certification Providers
FROM: Leah Breen, Director, Office of Educator Excellence
SUBJECT: Interim Teaching Certificates Updates During COVID-19 Pandemic

On April 2, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed [Executive Order 2020-35](#) (E.O. 2020-35). Section VIII(D) of that executive order permits the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to issue a Michigan Interim Teaching Certificate (ITC) to teacher candidates who have been unable to take the Michigan Tests for Teacher Certification (MTTC) due to COVID-19-related test center closures.

MDE believes that the MTTC is an important precursor to the interim teaching certificate. Positive results on the MTTC provide formal assurance that alternative route candidates possess the requisite content knowledge and skills necessary to serve students.

Individuals who have secured employment for the 2019-20 academic year, yet are unable to complete the appropriate MTTC tests, may work under a daily substitute permit. Days taught under the daily substitute permit issued due to test center closure may count toward completion of three years of satisfactory teaching if the discipline area(s) match(es) the endorsement on interim teaching certificates issued to candidates in the future.

What do Alternative Route to Certification providers need to do?

For alternative route candidates who have not been able to take the appropriate MTTC due to COVID-19-related test center closures, providers should collaborate with partner schools to ensure that the schools apply for the daily substitute permit for the candidates they wish to employ.

Providers must carefully track candidates' placements while under a daily substitute permit to ensure that candidates are in the grade levels and discipline areas that match the endorsements in which the candidates intend to become endorsed.

Providers should ensure that any candidates affected by E.O. 2020-35 are well supported in preparing to take the appropriate MTTC when test centers re-open. Candidates will need to be carefully advised about which MTTC they should register to take. Once candidates pass the appropriate MTTC, providers should advise these candidates to immediately apply for the interim teaching certificate.

Please contact me at BreenL1@Michigan.gov with any questions.

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