

**South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures**  
*Field and Clinical Experience Requirements*

Educator preparation programs and other school personnel preparation programs must provide field experiences (also known as the practicum) that provide candidates with a variety of progressive experiences in multiple and diverse settings. All candidates must complete a minimum of 100 hours of field experiences prior to clinical practice (student teaching) at the initial undergraduate level. At the initial graduate level, all candidates must complete a minimum of 75 hours of field experiences prior to clinical practice. Given the importance of these experiences in educator preparation, the state has specific requirements that must be met.

All educator preparation programs, including programs for the preparation of other school personnel, must provide candidates with a variety of progressive experiences in multiple and diverse settings. Units must present evidence that

- Teacher education candidates at the initial undergraduate level complete a minimum of 100 hours of field experiences in multiple and diverse settings prior to their clinical experience (student teaching).
- Teacher education candidates at the initial graduate level must complete a minimum of 75 hours of field experiences prior to their clinical experience.
- Teacher education candidates have an intensive, continuous clinical experience in a public school in the state of South Carolina. Occasionally extraordinary circumstances arise when the candidate has completed all work but the clinical phase of training and the candidate wishes to request a variance to complete the clinical in a public school in another state. If the unit in South Carolina that will ultimately recommend the candidate for certification agrees to supervise the candidate and fulfill all state requirements of this section, the unit may appeal to the Education Professions Committee (EPC) of the State Board of Education (SBE), describing in detail how the unit will ensure that the candidate meets all South Carolina criteria for completion of the clinical, including especially clinical supervision of the candidate by unit faculty. The unit will submit its proposal to the state agency. After a staff review of the unit proposal, the proposal will be placed on the EPC agenda. If the EPC approves the proposal, it will be taken to the SBE for final review.
- The clinical experience must be the equivalent of a minimum of twelve weeks or 60 full days.
- The candidate must teach independently a minimum of 10 full days in one setting.
- During the clinical phase, the candidate adheres to the daily schedule of the cooperating teacher including activities such as bus duty, faculty meetings and parent conferences.
- Each candidate is supervised by one or more institutional clinical faculty who has preparation in both the supervision of education and in the teaching area of the candidate and is trained in Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching (ADEPT).
- Each candidate must be supervised by one or more school-based clinical faculty (the cooperating teacher) who is trained in the ADEPT system.
- Each candidate must receive formative ADEPT evaluations and assistance from both

their institutional clinical faculty and their school-based clinical faculty. These formative evaluations will provide the candidate with written and oral feedback in terms of all ADEPT standards and must be based on a minimum of four classroom observations (at least two by the institutional clinical faculty and two by the cooperating teacher).

- Formative ADEPT evaluations, based on appropriate ADEPT standards, are also required for candidates preparing to work as other school personnel.
- Each candidate must receive at least one summative ADEPT evaluation prepared by both the institutional clinical faculty and the cooperating teacher. The summative evaluation must be aligned with all ADEPT formal evaluation guidelines; must include all evaluation procedures, including at least one summative evaluation by the faculty supervisor and one summative evaluation by the cooperating teacher; and must ensure that the candidate receives both oral and written feedback on all ADEPT standards.
- Summative evaluations based on appropriate ADEPT standards are also required for candidates preparing to work as other school personnel.
- Each candidate's background must be screened and approved through a South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) check prior to participation in any field experience.
- Each candidate's background must be reviewed and cleared by SLED and the Federal Bureau of Investigation prior to clinical practice.
- Each candidate must be advised that prior arrests or convictions could affect the individual's ability to complete the clinical experience and qualify for certification in South Carolina.