

Changes in Tennessee Licensure and Educator Preparation

Beginning Sept. 1, the Apprentice License and Transitional License will no longer be issued. The licenses are being replaced by the Practitioner License. In order to be issued a Practitioner License, a candidate must be recommended for the Practitioner License by an approved Educator Preparation Provider (EPP). This includes out-of-state and online EPPs in institutions of higher education approved in states other than Tennessee and authorized to offer programs in Tennessee by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) as well as approved non-higher education EPPs. Please visit this webpage on the department website ([here](#)) for additional information related to recent changes in Tennessee licensing.

EPP Approval

In addition to changes in licensure, there are changes in the way EPPs are approved to work with Tennessee school districts. Program approval changes also impact online and out-of-state EPPs. Beginning Sept. 1, out-of-state and online EPPs that place candidates in Tennessee school districts for the required clinical practice component of their program (e.g., student teaching, internship, and/or job embedded) must have formal partnership agreements with the school district that is hosting their candidates. This includes placement of candidates who are employed as teachers-of-record on a Practitioner License.

Partnership Agreements

Out-of-state and online EPPs must submit district partnership agreements to the Tennessee Department of Education in order to receive partnership recognition from the state. Therefore, prior to candidate's placement in a Tennessee school district, the EPP must complete and submit a partnership agreement form titled "*Partnership Agreement with Tennessee School District: Request for Recognition of Out-of-State and Online EPP*" and any associated items to the department. Please visit this webpage on the department website ([here](#)) for information related to recent changes in Tennessee educator preparation.

Placement Reporting by EPPs

For potential future reporting purposes requested of EPPs, it is highly suggested that data generated by the EPP in tracking candidates who are placed in Tennessee school districts for clinical practice (from a candidate's program admission through educator preparation completion and the teacher's early years of professional practice) be differentiated from candidates placed in other states.