

Webinar: 2/25/2026 - FAQs on Supervision of Instructional I and Education Specialist Candidates

[Act 47 of 2025 – Instruction Grade Span Requirements | Department of Education | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

Questions asked during the webinar:

1. Is there a difference between student teaching and practicum for Ed Specialist - like a Reading Specialist? Can you please repeat the clarity for # of hours if they have a cert and # of hours without cert?
[Please see Educator Preparation: Professional Education and Teacher Quality | Department of Education | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania website.](#) At the website go to [Approved Program Policies](#) and see [Stage Four Field Experiences Policy for Dual Instructional I Certification and Additional Instructional I Certifications.](#)
2. For EBCs, district remote learning schools will not work, correct? [We will allow the student to use the Experience-Based Certificate \(EBC\) for a 100% placement at a PA cyber or remote learning environment. We would consider this a special case and would allow flexibility in the use of the EBC for this instance. We are utilizing 22 Pa. Code § 49.91. Criteria for eligibility.](#) in making this decision. However, please be advised we may not always approve a one-time issuance.
3. Does this policy apply to Admin certs? Yes. [Admin cert supervision must be in-person and in-state \(no out-of-state/out-of-country waivers are allowed for admin cert\).](#)
4. Are there plans to revise the PK-12 Program Framework? If so, are there considerations for university supervision in Stage 3? [Yes, we are planning to revise the PK-12 Program Framework. Stage 3 field experiences do not require onsite observations by university faculty. Students should be progressing through stages 1-4, where at Stage 3 a university instructor may need to support teacher education candidates and mentor teachers through observations in the field, if there are concerns. If an EPP wants to conduct student observations by university faculty during Stage 3, it may do so. Stage 4 field experiences require a minimum of 12 weeks of full-time student teaching . How the 12 weeks of full-time student teaching are ultimately structured is up to your EPP. Again, if you have any questions, please reach out.](#)
5. This may seem silly, but should we be at all concerned with virtual learning days? [No supervision/observation should be done on brick-and-mortar virtual learning days. If a candidate is placed 50% in a virtual cyber or an approved cyber charter, observation/supervision may be done.](#)
6. Do candidates for the School Speech and Language Pathologist PK-12 Educational Specialist I Certificate Program need a PDE 430 form completed? [Yes. Please use the current PDE 430 form. A new PDE 430 form for educational specialists is coming soon.](#)
7. Can you clarify: do administrative/principal interns need IN PERSON visits since they don't have a PDE 430 (they have portfolios instead and virtual supervision meetings)? [We will work with those in the field to discuss how this may be completed.](#)
8. Completion of a PDE 430 is not included in the 2025 revised program guidelines for the School Speech and Language Pathologist PK-12 Educational Specialist I Certificate Program. How would programs know to complete a PDE 430 form? Or is this not

needed until a new process and form is created? Every single PDE certification requires observation and supervision. PDE 430 completion is discussed in the [K-12 Program Framework Guidelines](#). These guidelines are currently being revised for clarity.

9. What about the Framework for Eval for Pre-service teachers? [The Framework for Evaluation: Pre-Service Teacher](#) is an optional form that can be completed with the candidate to discuss their PDE 430.
10. Could you please define practicum? I know we are talking about Reading Specialists later, but this is the language in the guidelines. [Practicum is considered a Stage Four experience. Stage Four experiences include practicum, internships, student teaching, clinicals, etc.](#)
11. Has PDE considered the costs to programs when requiring programs to provide these minimum of 4 on site observations? [Yes, we have. On-site observations are part of the candidate's program of study. EPPs should consider this when creating programs.](#)