



## ASSOCIATION OF TEACHER EDUCATORS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Association of Teacher Educators Unveils Third Edition of Standards for Clinical Experiences

[Manassas, Virginia, April 15, 2024) - The Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) proudly announces the release of the third edition of the Standards for Clinical Experiences, a landmark publication that sets forth comprehensive guidelines for preparing teachers in their clinical experiences, such as student teaching. This latest edition represents the culmination of extensive vetting and scholarly input, making it the most well-vetted and thorough description to date of how teachers should be prepared for their roles in the classroom.

Dr. Cheryl A. Torrez, ATE President (2024-2025), Professor and Department Chair in the Department of Teacher Education, Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of New Mexico, noted, "The Standards for Clinical Experiences reflect robust and doable expectations for the clinical preparation of future K-12 educators. We trust that they will provide an ongoing solid foundation for the preparation of educators and serve as a clear path for both classroom-based and university-based teacher educators."

The newly revised standards underscore the importance of designing and facilitating clinical experiences as more than just the placement of teacher candidates in schools. It emphasizes a process that demands knowledge, skill, and intentionality to cultivate collaborative relationships with participating schools, administrators, and teachers. These standards recognize school-based partners as colleagues and invaluable contributors to the preparation of future educators.

Dr. Rebecca West Burns, Dean for the College of Education at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and task force co-chair, commented, "Every child deserves a high-quality teacher who is well-prepared to meet their needs. With the United States facing a significant teacher shortage, it's crucial to establish clearer expectations for how teachers are prepared during their student teaching experiences. The Standards for Clinical Experiences provide a roadmap for excellence in teacher preparation, emphasizing hands-on, real-world experiences in classrooms under the guidance of quality mentor teachers and university-based teacher educators."

The Standards for Clinical Experiences are built upon decades of research, scholarly thought, and practical insights, reflecting both timeless principles and recent innovations in teacher education.

They focus on key components such as collaboration, coherence, organization, quality placements, communication, resourcing, and continuous improvement.

Furthermore, the ATE Task Force on Standards for Clinical Experiences has developed a Continuum for Clinical Experience Standards to guide institutions in the design and implementation of their teacher education programs. These documents serve as tools for internal program review, prioritization, and enhancement, aiming to elevate the quality of teacher preparation nationwide.

Dr. John McIntyre, Co-Chair of the ATE Task Force, stated, "These standards were crafted not only to reflect the current state of teacher education but also to articulate a vision for what could be. By emphasizing self-reflection, coherence, diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Standards for Clinical Experiences challenge teacher educators and programs to strive for excellence and continuous improvement."

The Association of Teacher Educators invites educators, administrators, policymakers, and stakeholders to access the newly revised Standards for Clinical Experiences and the Continuum for Clinical Experience Standards through the ATE website. Together, let us uphold the highest standards of teacher preparation and empower educators to make a positive difference in the lives of students.

For more information and to access the standards, visit: <https://www.ate1.org/standards.html>.

A direct link to the Progress Continuum can be found at: [https://www.ate1.org/uploads/1/4/5/7/145746398/ate\\_progress\\_continuum.pdf](https://www.ate1.org/uploads/1/4/5/7/145746398/ate_progress_continuum.pdf)

**About the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE):** The Association of Teacher Educators is dedicated to the effective preparation of teachers and the development of effective teacher education programs. With a history spanning over a century, ATE is committed to promoting excellence in teacher preparation and advancing the profession of teaching.

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