

(P. del S. 1525); 2016, law 129

Law to Regulate the Program of Educational Clinical Experiences of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico.

NUM LAW AUGUST - 129, 2016

To create the "Law to Regulate the Program of Educational Clinical Experiences of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico"; repeal Act No. 79 of August 23, 1989, as amended, known as the "Law to Regulate the Teaching Practice Program of the Department of Public Instruction of Puerto Rico"; and for other purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The clinical educational experience is essential in the training of candidates for Teachers, School Director or Professional Counselor in the school setting, as it offers them the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes developed during his years of formal university preparation. During the Clinical Experience or Internship, the candidate assumes the responsibilities inherent to his future profession in all its dimensions, in addition to being a requirement to obtain the Regular Certificate in their respective category. It is a space to identify strengths and challenges and continue to develop professionally. The candidate must demonstrate vocation, commitment, responsibility, enthusiasm and solidarity, to improve the quality of life of the students, through effective pedagogical practice at all educational levels of the country, understood as preschool, elementary and secondary.

Since Law No. 79 of August 23, 1989, as amended, was passed to Regulate the Teaching Practice Program of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico to the present, education in Puerto Rico has changed and the requirements for both DEPR and preparation programs in the aforementioned categories are more demanding. There is a need to adjust to the new trends and commitments to education in Puerto Rico. Precisely, this legislation will ensure that all those who participate in this experience or Internship, find an appropriate frame of reference for carrying out their work and are ready at the end of their university studies.

BE DECLARED BY THE PUERTO RICO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

Article 1. - Title

This Law shall be referred to as the "Law to Regulate the Program of Educational Clinical Experiences of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico."

Article 2. - Definitions

The following terms will have the meanings indicated below wherever reference is made to them in this Law:

(1) Candidate for Professional Counselor in the school setting - University student of Master's or Doctorate, next to complete the degree in this category, who performs the educational clinical experience (internship) meeting the requirements established by the Program of Educational Clinical Experiences of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico and those of its university institution.

(2) Candidate for Director of School - University student of Master's or Doctorate, next to complete the degree in this category, who performs the educational clinical experience complying with the requirements established by the Experiences Program Educational Clinics of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico and those of its university institution.

(3) Candidate for teacher - University student of the undergraduate or graduate level, close to completing the degree in this category, who performs the educational clinical experience complying with the requirements established by the Department's Educational Clinical Experiences Program of Education of Puerto Rico and those of its university institution.

(4) Center of Practical Educational Experiences - Schools or public or private educational centers licensed to operate, provided by the Government, where students preparing for Teacher, Director of School or Counselor (a) Professional on the school stage perform field and clinical experiences at the preschool, elementary or secondary levels.

(5) Professional counselor in the cooperating school setting - Has the responsibility, together with the University Supervisor of Clinical Experiences, to evaluate the candidate's knowledge, skills and dispositions) a Professional Counselor in the school setting and identify the strengths and areas of need to support their professional growth.

He has the license of the Examining Board of Professional Counselors and the current certificates of Counselor and Cooperating Counselor, has a minimum of two (2) years of effective experience as a Professional Counselor in the school setting and is kept updated in his practice professional.

(6) Coordinator of Educational Clinical Experiences - University teacher assigned to be liaison between the institution of higher education that he represents and the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, whose functions will be determined by the Faculty, Department or Education Division of your institution

(7) Preparatory course for Teachers, School Directors or Professional Counselor in the cooperating school setting - Course that prepares these staff to supervise and evaluate the clinical experience of candidates according to their category, in addition to providing opportunities to continue strengthening their professional skills.

(8) Puerto Rico Department of Education (DEPR) - Government agency responsible for the public school system, to establish public policy on clinical educational experiences and to grant regular certifications to Teachers, School Directors and Professional Counselors in the school setting, among other categories.

(9) Director of the Center for Educational Practical Experiences - Person in charge of the public or private school or educational center licensed to operate at the preschool, elementary or secondary levels.

(10) Director of Cooperating School - Has the responsibility, together with the University Supervisor of Clinical Experiences, to evaluate the knowledge, skills and dispositions of the candidate for Director School in leadership and educational management processes and identify strengths and areas of need to support their professional growth.

He has the current certificates of the Director of the School and the Director of the Cooperating School, has a minimum of two (2) years of effective experience as the Director of the School and is kept updated in his professional practice.

11) Educational Clinical Experiences - Practice in formal school settings at the end of university preparation where the candidate for Teacher, Director of School or Professional Counselor on the school stage assumes the inherent responsibilities to his future profession in all its dimensions and demonstrates his knowledge, skills and dispositions acquired through his learning process.

(12) Educational Field Experiences - Practices in formal school settings before the clinical experience that are part of the courses during the preparation of the university student.

(13) Private Higher Education Institution - Private post-secondary education center licensed to operate in Puerto Rico, composed of one or more institutional units in which Associate Degrees, Certificates, Degrees or other academic recognition of Higher Education are granted.

(14) Public Higher Education Institution - Public postsecondary education center licensed to operate in Puerto Rico, and composed of one or more institutional units, in which Associate Degrees, Certificates, Degrees or other academic recognition of Higher Education are granted.

(15) Baccalaureate - Minimum level of education required to practice as a Teacher at the elementary, secondary or higher level and that is granted by a Higher Education Institution licensed to operate in Puerto Rico.

(16) Highly Qualified Teacher - Teacher who has an academic preparation (minimum baccalaureate) from a Higher Education institution licensed to operate in Puerto Rico, has passed the Teacher Certification Tests or their equivalent, it has a Regular Certificate of Teacher (a) in force in the level and the subject that teaches and evidence effectiveness in its educational practice.

(17) Cooperating Teacher - Has the responsibility, together with the University Supervisor of Clinical Experiences, to evaluate the knowledge, skills and dispositions of the candidate for the Teacher in the teaching and learning processes and identify strengths and areas of need to support their professional growth.

Teacher who has the current certificates of Teacher and Cooperating Teacher, is highly qualified, has a minimum of three (3) years of effective experience as a Teacher and is kept updated in his or her professional practice.

(18) Program for the Preparation of Professional Counselors on the School Stage - Graduate level university program that prepares the student with the professional competencies required to obtain the Regular Certification of Professional Counselor in the school setting that allows him to effectively execute, in the elementary, secondary or post-secondary non-university levels in the public and private educational systems of Puerto Rico.

(19) School Directors Preparation Program - Graduate level university program that prepares the student with the professional competencies required to obtain the Regular School Director Certification that allows him to effectively execute at the preschool, elementary, secondary levels or post-secondary non-university in the public and private educational systems of Puerto Rico.

(20) Teacher Preparation Program (PPM) - Undergraduate university program that prepares the student with the professional skills required to obtain the Regular Teacher Certification and carry out the teaching processes and learning effectively at the preschool, elementary or secondary levels in the public and private education systems of Puerto Rico.

(21) Supervisor of Educational Clinical Experiences - University teacher responsible, together with the Cooperator, for evaluating, through clinical experience, the execution of the candidate for Teacher, Director of School or Counselor (a) Professional in the school setting.

Article 3. - Establishment of Centers for Educational Practical Experiences

Public or private schools or educational centers licensed to operate provided by the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, where students preparing for Teacher, School Director or Professional Counselor on stage School students carry out field and clinical experiences at the preschool, elementary or secondary levels.

The authorities of public and private Higher Education institutions are empowered to, in collaboration with the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, select Centers for Practical Experiences outside their University Precincts. These centers will be established in public schools, private schools or educational centers of preschool, elementary or secondary levels licensed to operate in Puerto Rico. They will be subject to the supervision of the Puerto Rico Department of Education.

Article 4. - Allocation of Funds

The allocation of two hundred seventy-five thousand (275,000) dollars consigned in the Joint Resolution of the General Budget of Operation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico 2015-2016, continues in force with annual recurrence, to cover the expenses of the payment of stipends to the different populations, visits and monitoring of the Centers of Practical Experiences, purchase of materials and equipment, training for university professors, work meetings with the Institutions of Higher Education and other administrative or personnel expenses related to the Program of Educational Clinical Experiences.

Article 5.- Stipends to Participants

The payment of a semiannual stipend to the Directors in charge of the Centers of Practical Experiences and to the Teachers, School Directors and Professional Counselors in the cooperating school scenario that are officials in the Public Schools of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico and that the candidate in their charge comes from a Public Higher Education institution. This stipend will be granted for the additional responsibilities to his position in collaboration with the university.

Each private Higher Education institution will decide and be responsible for any stipend as established.

Article 6. - Regulation

The Department of Education of Puerto Rico, together with the Higher Education Institutions which have a Faculty, Department or Division of Education, shall develop the regulations that will govern the organization and operation of the Program of Educational Clinical Experiences no later than ninety (90) days from the date of approval of this Law.

Article 7. - Procedure for the Care of Unintended Issues

Any problem or issue related to the orientation and operation of the Program of Educational Clinical Experiences not provided for in this Law, shall be resolved by mutual agreement between the Secretary of the Department of Education of Puerto Rico or an official designated by him and the President or the corresponding authorities Higher Education Institutions.

Article 8. - Repeal.

Act No. 79 of August 23, 1989, as amended, is repealed, known as the “Law to Regulate the Teaching Practice Program of the Department of Public Instruction of Puerto Rico”.

Article 9. - Validity.

This Law will take effect on July 1, 2016.

Source:

<http://www.uprm.edu/uprmcaep/wp-content/uploads/sites/88/2017/02/2.1.1-Law-129-Regulating-Clinical-Education-Experiencies-in-Puerto-Rico.pdf>.