



FAQs - Recording Virtual Classes and COVID Issues

The Ohio Resident Educator Program Team understands this is a uniquely challenging school year, and this year's submissions will look and sound different from past years.

Assessors will give candidates every benefit of the doubt when reviewing evidence, especially evidence related to student engagement. RESA scoring will not be impacted due to any COVID-related face-to-face or virtual classroom issues that may appear in the video.

For the past couple years, the overall pass rate for RESA submissions has been over 98%, so candidates should view the process as an opportunity to reflect on their practice and receive written feedback from an unbiased, experienced Ohio educator.

The FAQs below are related to recording virtual classes and COVID issues. For FAQs on other topics, please visit the FAQ page of the Ohio RESA website. For technical assistance and questions regarding the RESA, please email resa@teachforward.com. The Ohio Resident Educator Program team is here to support candidates, facilitators, mentors, and program coordinators.

Question: If the video's audio is not clear due to students wearing masks, are candidates allowed to submit a transcript or is using closed captioning an option? If the students are harder to hear and/or understand, will that affect their score?

Answer: The RESA assessors understand that masks may make it harder to hear what is being said, and this will not affect the submission's score.

If it is difficult to understand a student when they are speaking, we recommend that the candidate repeat what the student says, so the other students can understand what the student said, as well as the assessor reviewing the video. When reviewing the videos, assessors are looking for trends, and it is okay if it is not possible or very difficult to hear some of the student comments and responses.

If the candidate would like to explain something that is difficult to hear/understand in the video, they can do so within the full-page answer box on page 7 of the Video Commentary and Reflection Form. The question on page 7 is an unnumbered (between questions 3 and 4) and unscored question that allows candidates to provide context to the assessor. On the Video Commentary and Reflection Form, each response should not exceed 250 words. As always, candidates should not attempt to add pages to either form since this will cause an error during the uploading process that could make the entire form appear blank.

Candidates should not add closed captioning or a transcript of the video.

Question: If schools are face-to-face at the time of a candidate recording their lesson for the RESA, how is social distancing supposed to look because they may not be able to put their students in groups or be interacting with them as much as they normally would without social distancing? Should they possibly state this on their forms, would that help?

Answer: The health and safety of the candidate and their students is the top priority. Candidates should not alter their social distancing plans for the RESA. The RESA assessors, all of whom are experienced Ohio educators, are aware that candidates are required to implement social distancing, so candidates do not need to state this. Social distancing, which we understand will look very different depending on the district and classroom, will not impact RESA scoring.

If the candidate would like to explain something to the assessors, they can do so within the answer box on page 7 of the Video Commentary and Reflection Form. The question on page 7 is an unnumbered (between questions 3 and 4) and unscored question that allows candidates to provide context to the assessor.

On the Video Commentary and Reflection Form, each response should not exceed 250 words. As always, candidates should not attempt to add pages to either form since this will cause an error during the uploading process that could make the entire form appear blank.

Question: How do candidates show proof for what the criteria is asking to show in the video for Domain 4 (Classroom Environment Conducive to Learning) and Domain 5 (Student Intellectual Engagement) in virtual teaching?

Answer: The assessors will give candidates every benefit of the doubt when reviewing evidence, especially for Domains 4 and 5.

For virtual classes, candidates can show evidence of student engagement (Domain 4) and intellectual engagement (Domain 5) in many of the same ways as they would for in-person classes. For example, candidates can ask questions and have students respond verbally or they can have students respond in a chat box, write on a Google document, or answer online survey question(s). Candidates and/or other students can then provide feedback either verbally or in writing.

Unlike past years, there will not be a requirement that more than half the students are active participants. Candidates should complete the context form based on the group of students who is participating in the recorded lesson.

Question: Is there a pixel recommendation for monitors and laptops to allow for the best quality of recording when teaching virtual students?

Answer: There is no specific pixel recommendation or requirement. The important thing is that the candidate previews the video and ensures it is possible to hear and see the candidate and students and the evidence is legible. If the evidence is not legible, then the candidate should use a higher resolution and record another lesson. If something minor on the screen is illegible, the submission will be scored, but the assessor will not be able to consider that evidence in their review of the submission.

Question: How do candidates get around first and last names showing up while recording a virtual class on a platform that does not provide an option to remove or edit names? Since candidates are not allowed to edit the video how do you advise that we get around this? Having candidates teach from a different platform is not an ideal situation.

Answer: For the RESA, candidates should use the platform that they normally use. If the platform allows it, we encourage candidates and students to prevent their last names from appearing. If the platform does not allow it, candidates should still use the platform and submit the recording with the names visible. According to the updated PII policy, the submission's score will not be affected by the inclusion of the first and/or last names.

Question: Does the chat box function have to be shown? Younger students will have difficulty using the chat function.

Answer: The chat function does not need to be shown, especially if it is not being used. If the chat function is used, candidates are encouraged, but not required, to make it visible.