

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
by and between
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
and
DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

TEACHER RESIDENCIES

This Field Placement Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into this _____ day of _____, 20____, (“Effective Date”) by and between the University of North Texas (“UNT”), on behalf of its College of Education, and Denton Independent School District (“School District”) for the purpose of establishing or continuing a clinical practice school site.

WHEREAS, the Parties to this Agreement are part of a collaboration between UNT and affiliated school districts committed to advancing the learning of EC-12 students, teacher candidates, and practicing educators, and to improving public education through collaborative research and development;

WHEREAS, the Parties to this Agreement believe that school districts and universities benefit when expertise and resources are shared in collaborative partnership to advance both shared missions and unique characteristics in service of continuous improvement of educator preparation; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement is intended and shall be interpreted to meet the statutory requirements for educator preparation programs adopted by the State Board of Education Certification.

THEREFORE, the Parties mutually agree on the following:

I. Term and Termination

1. The term of this Agreement is one (1) year, beginning upon the Effective Date of this Agreement.
2. This Agreement may be terminated upon thirty (30) days written notice by either party, provided that all teacher candidates in the clinical practice placement at the time of notice of termination is given, shall be permitted to finish their clinical practice placement in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement until completed.
3. This Agreement may be amended by either party upon notice to the other, which must be reduced to writing and signed by both parties.

II. UNT Obligations

UNT will:

1. Establish a residency cohort of 20-25 students qualified to participate as residents.
2. Coordinate representatives from UNT and the School District to serve on the Residency Steering Committee, which will meet quarterly to review data and recommend new directions for the program. UNT and Denton ISD will collaborate on the application, hiring process, and hiring decisions for UNT students who will become teacher residents. UNT and Denton ISD will each appoint a coordinator for the residency program, who will maintain further communication for adjustments and trouble-shooting throughout the year.
3. Provide Residency Handbook(s) (“Handbook”) for each semester of the residency that explains the program for teacher candidates, expectations of UNT and School District personnel who work with teacher candidates, and UNT contact information.
4. Provide a Director of Clinical Practice (“Director”) who provides oversight and coordination of all required clinical practice experiences associated with teacher education courses. Director responsibilities include coordination with School District administrators, cooperating/mentor teachers, UNT faculty, and UNT field supervisors to secure clinical practice placements, develop clinical practice materials and assessments, and train UNT supervisors and cooperating/mentor teachers.
5. Provide an orientation for UNT and district personnel, as well as mentor training for host teachers. The orientation will provide an overview of the clinical practice programs and the responsibilities of participants. For mentor teacher training, UNT will provide stipends for responsibilities beyond regular district duties, with amounts established in coordination with Denton ISD leadership.
6. Designate leaders of the UNT residency program. These leaders serve as intermediaries between the Director and UNT field supervisors. Their duties may include assisting with placements and conducting seminars for teacher candidates, UNT field supervisors, and cooperating/mentor teachers. This designation will occur in advance of the start of the cadre, if possible.
7. Provide clear expectations in a timely manner regarding schedules, assignments, and assessments.
8. Assign UNT faculty and staff who will support teacher candidates and cooperating/mentor teachers throughout the course of the clinical practice placement.

9. Work to ensure that practices and policies increase the capacity of teacher candidates to work effectively with diverse learners and their families.
10. Pursuant to Section 22.0835 of the Texas Education Code, UNT will require each teacher candidate to complete a criminal history background check from the Texas Department of Public Safety. Upon request by the School District, UNT will confirm that each teacher candidate has complied with the criminal history records requirement under Texas Education Code 22.0835.
11. Provide funding to pay the residents for the 2023-24 school year at \$20,000 salary plus appropriate fringe benefit amounts, with an expected total between \$516,764.00 and \$588,794.48 for the 23 students expected in the residency cohort.

III. School District:

School District will:

1. Employ residents as part-time district employees, with hours per week varying across the year, with a schedule agreed upon by the university and district. Residents will be due the normal rights and responsibilities of district employees.
2. The district will invoice UNT for half the expected cost to employ residents in the Fall and again for the remaining balance in 2024, before June 30, 2024. For students who do not complete the year and separate employment, the district will deduct the prorated amount following employee separation for the remainder of the year from the invoices or will be refund to UNT the prorated amount following the residency teacher's separation.
3. Provide placement opportunities in ethnically, linguistically, and socio-economically diverse communities and populations. For the residency, the host schools shall be reasonably near to each other geographically.
4. Designate adequate space for facilitating clinical practice including meeting space as administratively possible, for on-site methods course delivery and/or seminars.
5. Not recruit teacher candidates or clinical teachers away from the program as teachers of record prior to their completion of the full teacher education program.
6. Consult with the UNT Director of Clinical Practice before assigning a resident as a full-day substitute.
7. Designate host teachers who are qualified and willing to mentor teacher candidates. Residents will co-teach for the entire school year with one host teacher. Host teachers will be in compliance with all applicable national and state accreditation requirements, as well as the criteria for quality established between

UNT and the district. Host teachers and school administrators shall be advised of their responsibility to meet with field supervisors from UNT, per the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 228.

8. Collaborate with UNT in providing orientation activities for residents, host teachers, and UNT personnel.
9. Participate in quarterly meetings between school administrators, district administrators, and UNT personnel.
10. The School District will assist UNT in the assessment and feedback of individual residents and of the clinical practice program by completing assessment forms provided by UNT in a timely manner.

A public-school campus may accept a teacher candidate from a university other than UNT. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, School District must adhere to the terms of this Agreement, regardless of the presence of another university's teacher candidate on a campus.

IV. Miscellaneous


1. UNT teacher candidates are held to the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators as printed in the Handbook. Teacher candidates shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies, and other applicable state and federal laws.
2. The School District will promptly notify UNT in writing of any teacher candidate conduct that may violate the policies of UNT, the School District or the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators. In the event a teacher candidate is to be suspended or dismissed from any placement, the School District will follow the Procedures for Suspension and Termination in the Handbook and consult with UNT before finalizing such action, unless immediate removal is required by law or to protect the health and safety of minors.
3. Each party agrees to hold student information, including any personally identifiable student information or education records as those terms are defined under federal law ("Confidential Data") in strict confidence and warrants to the other party that it will use reasonable industry practices to establish and maintain adequate procedures to ensure the confidentiality and privacy of such Confidential Data from unauthorized use or disclosure in violation of FERPA and not to use or disclose Confidential Data except as permitted or required by this Agreement, as required by law, or as otherwise authorized by the other party in writing. Each party further agrees not to use Confidential Data for any purpose other than the purpose for which the disclosure to the party was made. Each party shall continue to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of the Confidential Data after termination, expiration or other conclusion of this Agreement.

4. Nothing herein shall be deemed to create any association, partnership, joint venture, joint enterprise, or agency relationship between the Parties. In providing the foregoing services, the parties shall act as independent contractors.
5. The failure of either party to enforce any provision, to exercise any available remedy, or to demand the prompt performance of any obligation under this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver or limitation of any right or remedy.
6. This Agreement and the rights and duties hereunder shall not be assigned by either party without the express written consent of the other party.
7. This writing constitutes the entire Agreement by the Parties. No later modification of this Agreement shall have force or effect unless set forth in writing and executed by authorized representatives of both Parties.
8. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. This Agreement is entered into in Denton County and venue for any legal proceeding regarding this Agreement shall be in Denton County.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused their duly authorized representatives to execute this Agreement to be effective as of the Effective Date.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

By: 282A0D4CD34342F...

Provost

Date: 9/8/2023

Denton Independent School District

By: _____
Name
Title
Date: