

Are you going
to be a teacher?

PDS

could be the three most important letters
in your college life.

ILLINOIS STATE
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What does PDS mean?

The PDS program and you

The PDS program offers senior education students at Illinois State University a year-long experience in a public school that replaces the 16-week student-teaching semester. On-site college classes and mentoring are important elements of the PDS internship.

PDS partnership facts

Illinois State University entered into its first PDS partnership in 1995 with Wheeling District 21, west of Chicago. The number of partner school districts continues to grow, with PDS opportunities available from central to northern Illinois. Grade levels are being added as partnerships grow, making the PDS Program an option for early childhood, elementary, middle level, and secondary education students. PDS internships for students in elementary bilingual education are available in more than one district.



“I really think it's the best choice I've made.”

Andy Frost '06, PDS intern



Will a full-year internship make me a better teacher?

“The full year has definitely helped in the relationship-building with the kids. They knew her from the beginning of the school year. I think the respect started then.”

Jennifer Danna, mentor teacher to PDS intern

Be there for the entire school year

“As young teachers, our former PDS interns are leaders right away,” says JoNancy Warren, PDS coordinator, Wheeling Consolidated School District 21.

Our graduates tell us that they wouldn't be the kind of teachers they are today if it weren't for going through this program. Nothing compares to being there when school starts and seeing it through to the end of the year. “A full year gives us more time to expand on and explore what the University taught us,” Krista Boston '06, PDS intern, adds. “By the second semester, we could focus on academics rather than learning to manage the classroom.”

“I was here before the first day, so now I know how to set up a classroom—I have that experience. No matter where I am, this is always going to be my ‘first year.’ It will be an experience that affects me as long as I'm teaching.”

Lauren Borrenpohl '06, PDS intern

Is **mentoring** an important part of the PDS program?

“The whole district embraces you and takes you as their own.”

Krista Boston '06, PDS intern

You will have help along the way

“As a new teacher I felt very prepared, especially with classroom management, which was one of the big things I learned last year...I still talk with my former mentor teacher on a daily basis,” says Michelle Daniels '05, fifth-grade teacher, former PDS intern. When you are in the PDS program, you will have people close to you that you can count on. PDS interns say it really helps that they have so much help from their Illinois State University teachers along the way.

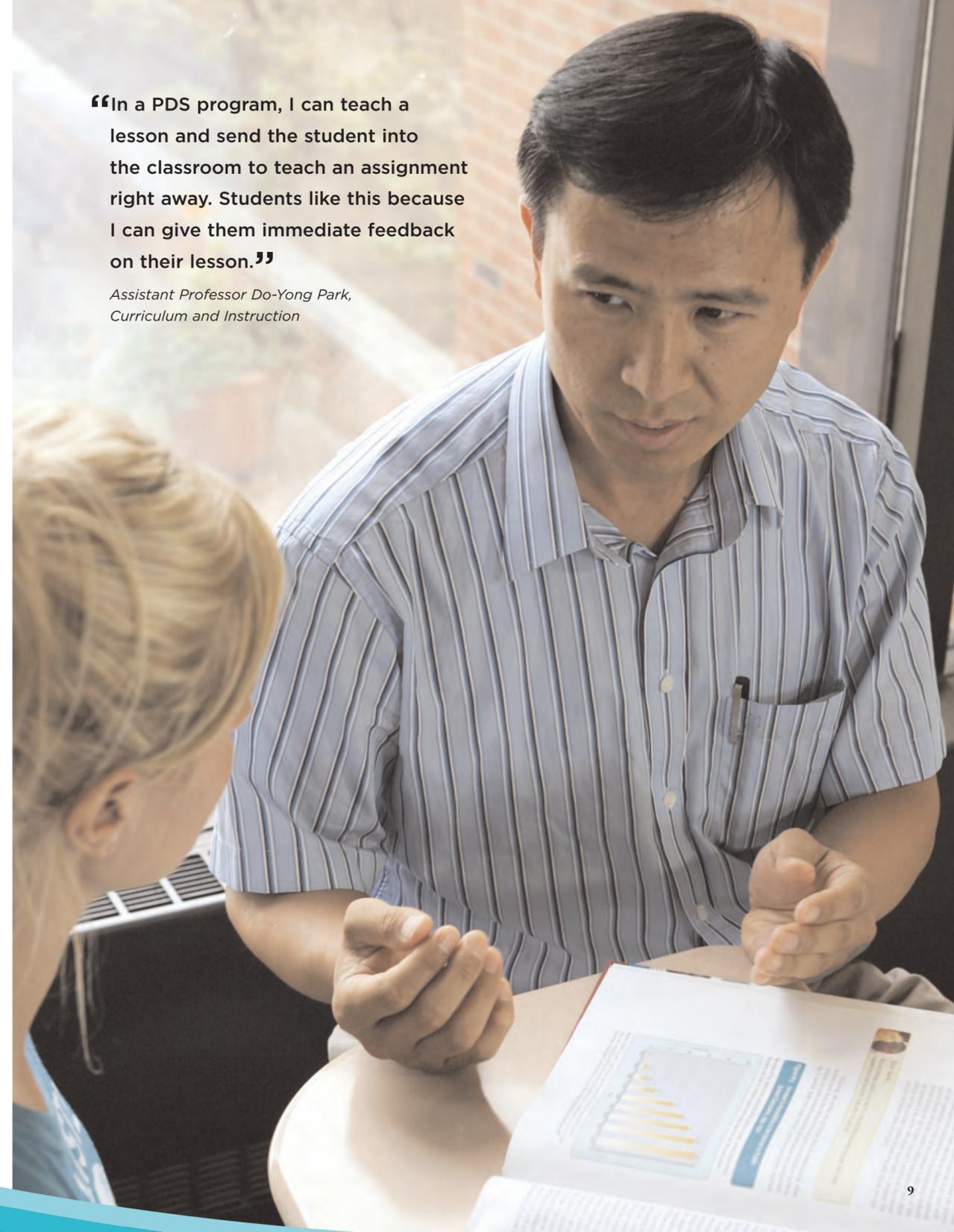
One of the biggest advantages of participating in the PDS program is that you get to try things out in the classroom as you are learning about them. Kara Coglianesi, district PDS liaison with Illinois State University, Wheeling Consolidated School District 21, remarks that “the PDS program teaches interns to be more reflective and really focus on the craft instead of just managing strategies and knowing when to use them.”

“We implement many of the best practices the PDS interns bring to the table. In our new Professional Development Center we will teach veteran teachers what the concepts are.”

*Superintendent Don White,
Ph.D. '04, Pekin Public School District 108*

“In a PDS program, I can teach a lesson and send the student into the classroom to teach an assignment right away. Students like this because I can give them immediate feedback on their lesson.”

*Assistant Professor Do-Yong Park,
Curriculum and Instruction*





“I have sat through interviews with some of the PDS interns from this district, and they are better prepared than any candidates I have ever seen. There is a qualitative difference in their preparation.”

*Superintendent Don White, Ph.D. '04,
Pekin Public School District 108*

Does the **PDS internship** help education graduates get good jobs?

“Principals tell us that in job interviews the PDS interns have the language and they have the concepts behind it. They come off like experienced teachers.”

*Kara Coglianesi, district PDS liaison with Illinois State University,
Wheeling Consolidated School District 21*

Principals like to hire PDS intern graduates

“It was very easy to find a job,” says Nicole Socha '06, bilingual teacher, former PDS intern in the district that hired her.

When you interview for your first job in a school, you are not sure what to expect. Our PDS interns feel like they have already been through their first year of teaching. Principal Jennifer Gill of Lindsay Elementary School in Springfield remarks, “They know the school year from day one to the end.”

“The program really prepared us for job interviews in every way,” says Bennett Nelson '06, seventh-grade teacher, former PDS intern in the district that hired him.

“We have a mass job interview every year where the candidates are scored. The PDS candidates scored at the very top. I have other principals calling me about the graduating PDS interns, saying, ‘Who’s your crop?’”

*Principal Jennifer Gill, Lindsay Elementary School, Springfield Public
School District 186*



Is it difficult for students to give up their entire **senior year** on campus?

“We all know each other. You have a small group and you get to grow together. It’s so much better than on a big campus. It’s what it will be like in a school.”

Krista Boston '06, PDS intern

You won't have to go through it alone

“If you do a PDS internship you will make a new group of friends and build bonds. Years down the road you can call these peers with questions,” Ellen Beresheim '06, PDS intern, says.

PDS interns tell us that they can't imagine going through this experience alone. And they don't have to. In this program, you are always with a group of interns who know what you are going through.

“Living in an apartment in Springfield was scary at first, but the PDS interns have become close and I've made some really good friends. I haven't been lonely, because we have all been together,” remarks Lauren Borrenpohl '06, PDS intern.

“The PDS interns come so well prepared. Their ideas are phenomenal.”

Madeleine Decker, mentor teacher to PDS intern

How do PDS graduates feel about their internship experience after they have been teaching for several years?

“I enjoy being in the classroom. I absolutely love it, every single day.”

Amy Lydic '00, a teacher in the same district where she was a PDS intern.

Classroom learning has immediate application

“I have the PDS program to thank for the great start I have had to my teaching career,” says Amy Lydic, who recently completed her sixth year of teaching kindergarten and third grade in the same district where she was an intern.

The time you spend as a PDS intern will be well worth it. Our PDS graduates tell us that they are better off two or three years down the line because of the confidence they gained by being in the classroom for a full year.

“Their coursework the first semester is aligned with the curriculum here in the school. That’s key, because they can go and try it out in the classroom. That makes them better teachers for sure.”

Principal Jennifer Gill, Lindsay Elementary School, Springfield Public School District 186



“My teacher always makes sure we understand what we’re doing.”

Mike, a fourth-grader, talking about the PDS intern in his classroom



What do students say about the **PDS experience** after they have completed it?

Benefits of a PDS internship

A group of ten PDS interns generated the following list of benefits of the year-long experience.

1. Employment statistics for PDS grads are positive and they have a competitive edge in Illinois.
2. Research shows that PDS grads are more likely to stay in education as a career.
3. Interns take classes on-site in the school district and directly apply their knowledge in the classrooms.
4. The PDS program allows more time to get to know students and other teachers in the building.
5. The program provides mock job interviews and mentors give good advice about job searches.
6. Interns have more "complete takeover" time in the classroom than other types of student teaching.
7. Interns have already experienced a whole year of teaching by the time they graduate.
8. PDS interns make bonds with people who will be professional peers for years down the road.
9. Interns can see right away how what they learned in their college classes works with students.
10. Interns get to know the school district and the community much better than in traditional student teaching.

“She supports us.”

Daquarion, a fourth-grader, talking about the PDS intern in his classroom

“The PDS internship brought me from college all the way to where I am today. It was one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

Michelle Daniels '05, former PDS intern who was hired by the same district as a fifth-grade teacher

Feel like a second-year teacher

“The PDS internship went beyond my expectations. You live the life of a teacher all year, going to conferences, making lesson plans each day, attending institute days, and staying until 8 o'clock at night occasionally getting everything in. It lets you know what it's really going to be like as a teacher. Teaching is not a nine-to-five job, and everyone should realize that long before he or she becomes a teacher,” says Pete Ower '06, seventh-grade teacher, former PDS intern.

Most interns would say that the PDS program was the best experience of their lives. Interns are not only preparing for their career but also building connections with friends and mentors that will last a lifetime.