

Student Teaching Placements in the School of Teaching and Learning (TCH) at Illinois State University

Students should be reminded of the following information regarding student teaching placements.

Illinois School Code mandates that cooperating teachers:

1. Be licensed and qualified to teach in the same area as the student teacher
2. Have three years of teaching experience in a public school or an IL State Recognized nonpublic school
3. Have received a proficient or above performance rating in his or her most recent evaluation
4. Are directly engaged in teaching subject matter or conducting learning activities in the area of student teaching

These mandates must be verified before student teaching placements are assigned.

In addition, TCH works to place candidates with the following criteria in mind:

- Students are not allowed to self-place student teaching – other than providing placement coordinators with generalized geographic preferences.
- Given the degree leads to licensure we place students in schools where they can gain experiences with students with diagnosed cognitive, physical, and/or emotional disabilities who receive special education services; and, if possible, English-language and bilingual learners.
- We endeavor to place candidates in classrooms with teachers who collaborate with special education teachers, social workers, and school psychologists on a regular basis. Additionally, candidates should work in classrooms with children with IEPs and work with teachers who develop and implement IEPs.
- Given state requirements for teaching we place students in classrooms with state-mandated standards (e.g., Common Core, NGSS, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, England National Curriculum Key Stages)

In order to meet the criteria listed above, and to meet college 5-year plan goals to increase student attendance in the PDS model, we have created a partnership placement model. As part of that model we need to:

- Establish placement partnership districts
- Cluster our students in those districts
- Establish cooperating teachers and supervisors who routinely work with our teacher candidates in those districts

As a result, TCH has developed several partnerships with schools and districts. These partnerships allow TCH to develop working relationships with school staff and administrators to provide candidates experiences for state licensure and university, college, and school standards for graduates. In addition, by partnering with schools TCH is able to reduce supervisory and travel - related costs.

Further, students have already agreed via signature on the Student Teacher Agreement Form that, in part:

- I understand that my student teaching and pre-student teaching placements will be appropriate to my program and that specific requests may not be accommodated.
- I understand that I cannot be assigned a placement in a school district where my relatives or close friends work, or where I have had prior work or volunteer experience. Nor will I be placed in any school that I attended.
- I understand that neither I, nor friends or family members, can be involved in making my own student teaching or pre-clinical placements.