

Partnership Agreement
by and between
Dakota State University
and

This written agreement is entered into by and between Dakota State University (DSU) and (hereinafter referred to as the Partner District) for their mutual professional benefit and growth.

This agreement sets forth the terms and procedures for DSU and the Partner District to cooperate in

- the preparation of preservice teachers
- the support and professional development of inservice teachers and administrators
- the support of the curriculum development processes for Teacher Preparation Programs and Partner District Schools
- the support of DSU first-year graduates employed by Partner Districts

1.0 Preparation of Preservice Teachers

1.1 Placement of Field Experience Students and Student Teachers

Placement of preservice teachers will be accomplished on a cooperative basis involving the Office of Field Services in the College of Education and the Partner District. Either party reserves the right to decline a request for placement involving a specific student teacher or cooperating teacher. There shall be no discrimination on the basis of a person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

1.2 Qualifications of Cooperating Teachers and University Supervisors

The Partner District will be responsible for assuring that the cooperating teachers assigned to work with preservice teachers are appropriately certified, experienced, and model best professional practices. DSU will be responsible for assuring that the university supervisors assigned to supervise preservice teachers act as liaisons between the partners and are, in addition, knowledgeable about respective content and pedagogy and experienced in supervisory practices.

1.3 Changing or Termination of Assignments

At any time either party may request the change or termination of a field placement through the Director of Field Services. Reasonable efforts will be made to consult with all parties concerned to ascertain and document reasons for any such change or termination.

1.4 Use of School Equipment, Facilities, and Materials

The schools in the Partner District will provide appropriate and reasonable access to school facilities, equipment, and materials as necessary to fulfill field placement requirements.

1.5 Policies and Regulations

All field experience students, their university supervisors and Partner District educators agree to abide by the policies and regulations of the Partner District, policies and regulations of DSU, and the Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers and/or for Administrators. All parties agree to abide by the regulations of the Student Teaching Handbook and Teacher Education Handbook in force at the time of the placement. Evaluation procedures articulated in the Student Teaching Handbook will be followed by both parties with appropriate adjustments allowed but final responsibility of awarding of credit for student teaching resting with DSU.

1.6 Status and Authority of Student Teachers

Student teachers shall have status and authority in accordance with the state code of South Dakota and the local district policy. Student teachers actually engaged under the terms of this agreement shall be entitled to the same protection as is afforded to officers and employees of the Partner District during the time they are so assigned.

1.7 Compensation to Partner District

DSU agrees to compensate cooperating teachers assigned to student teaching and advanced field experience (Level III) in the Partner District at the rate determined by the Board of Regents. Compensation may be prorated if the supervision duties are shared or if the placement is changed or terminated.

2.0 Support and Professional Development of Inservice Teachers and Administrators

2.1 Support for Individual Schools and Teachers

University supervisors will provide advice, assistance, research, and inservice to the Partner District school to which they are assigned as necessary to support the quality of teaching and learning at that site.

2.2 Professional Support for Partner District

DSU agrees to provide advice, assistance, support, research and inservice to the Partner District as requested and reasonable to improve teaching, learning, and the professional well-being of Partner District teachers and administrators. This may include, but is not limited to, providing appropriate courses, workshops, grant support, research projects, and consultation.

2.3 Advocacy Role

As appropriate, DSU will support and serve as an advocate for the educational initiatives of the Partner District, when those initiatives enhance the growth and well-being of children.

3.0 Support of Curriculum Development Processes

3.1 Participation in the Governance of Teacher Education

The Partner District agrees to collaborate in the curriculum development process for teacher education through participation in the Professional Education Council and its standing and *ad hoc* committees.

3.2 Curriculum Development of Partner Districts

DSU agrees to collaborate in the curriculum development process of the Partner District and its schools through participation in committees, research efforts, and consultation as requested.

3.3 Continuing Dialogue for the Improvement of Teaching and Learning

Both parties agree to engage in an ongoing dialogue regarding all aspects of teaching and learning intended to generate new solutions or improved practices which will enhance teaching and learning.

4.0 First Year Assistance

The College of Education of DSU agrees to maintain contact with its graduates during their first year of employment in the Partner District and provide appropriate assistance, as necessary and requested, to the new professional and the employing school. DSU may extend this support to first-year teachers who are not its graduates at the request of the Partner District, so long as that support does not interfere with first-year assistance programs of other universities.

5.0 Hold Harmless and Indemnification

The parties hereto agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the state of South Dakota, its officers, agents, and employees, from and against any and all actions, suits, liability or other proceedings which may arise as a result of performing services hereunder.

6.0 Contract Renewal

This contract will remain in effect until either party notifies the other of its desire to terminate the agreement. The contract will be reviewed by the Professional Education Council and the Partner District biannually in May. Any changes to the agreement will be circulated for comment by both parties and, when approved, will be attached to this original agreement.

Vice President Business and, Date
Administrative Services, DSU

President, School Board Date

Dean, College of Education Date

Superintendent, School District Date