

Niagara University College of Education Foundations of Teaching, M.S. Ed. Program Statement of Agreement

This Statement of Agreement is drawn between _____ (district or BOCES) and Niagara University's College of Education as a step in establishing a new collaboration between the two. This particular Statement of Agreement outlines an initiative to meet the needs of novice teachers through a partnership focusing on teacher mentoring.

The Foundations of Teaching M.S. Ed. Program is registered with New York State and leads to professional certification for candidates who possess initial certification in teaching Grades 1-6 or Grades 7-12 in the content areas of biology, business, chemistry, English, French, social studies, or Spanish. The program is designed to enable the novice teacher to develop additional professional knowledge in the areas of motivation, management, curriculum, diversity, and educational research during the first year of study. The second year of the program is designated as an internship year that will enable the novice teacher to develop professional skills in each of the competencies outlined by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) for the candidate's certification/content area. The program requires that candidates matriculating must be employed in a classroom capacity by a district with a mentoring program. The program further requires that the district or regional BOCES be willing to allow its mentor, and novice teachers who are admitted into the program to participate in additional professional development and training with Niagara University faculty to facilitate the mentoring relationship.

The purpose of this Statement of Agreement is to describe the relationship and set expectations such that all involved can appreciate and benefit from the relationship.

In this relationship, _____ (name) will serve as the primary contact from _____ (the district or BOCES); and Dr. Chandra Foote will serve as the primary contact from Niagara University.

Niagara University will do the following:

- Accept novice teachers employed by (the district or BOCES) in a classroom teaching capacity who currently hold appropriate initial New York State Certification and who meet the general program admission criteria into the Foundations of Teaching M.S. Ed. Program.
- Provide professional development and training for mentor teachers and interns, in addition to that offered by the district or BOCES, to assist them in meeting the needs of candidates during their internship year.
- Compensate mentor teachers for their support of candidates and their participation in professional development and training activities with a course voucher for each of the 2 semesters for which they mentor a candidate in an internship year.
- Complete on-site observations of candidates during the internship year to facilitate development in each of the NBPTS areas.
- Collaborate with mentor teachers and candidates during the internship year to promote the professional growth of University faculty, mentors, and candidates.

_____ (The district or BOCES) will do the following:

- Maintain a mentor program for new teachers as required by New York State Education Regulations.
- Identify mentor teachers who are recognized for their outstanding professional practice, and hold certification or expertise in the area of the intern's certification to pair with program interns.
- Compensate mentor teachers and candidates for their participation in the mentoring program according to district contract.
- Maintain the expectation that mentor teachers and candidates participate in the additional collaboration and professional development initiatives set forth by the College of Education for the Foundations of Teaching M.S. Ed. Program.

Having participated in the development of this document, directly or indirectly, and having read through the components above, I offer my signature indicating my support of this Statement of Agreement. I further understand that my signature does not imply that novice teachers are obligated to matriculate in the Foundations and Teaching, M.S. Ed. Program, and that they may apply to other master's degree programs leading to professional certification at Niagara University or another degree granting institution.

For Niagara University:

Name Dr. Debra Colley, Dean
College of Education

Date _____

For _____ (the district/BOCES):

Name typed

Date _____