



Alternative Student Teaching Agreement

This MOU is intended to address the unique situation of a Teacher Candidate in an Educator Preparation Program leading to a college recommendation for Initial NYS Teacher Certification, who is or will be employed as a classroom teacher of record, teacher aide, or teacher assistant in a local school/district, and who has completed all program coursework, with the exception of Student Teaching. The employment must include the opportunity to teach for at least 16 consecutive weeks in the certification area sought.

The Candidate will complete the Student Teaching application process and Alternative Student Teaching will be discussed at that time.

Additional eligibility qualifications for the Alternative Student Teaching Model include:

- 1. The Teacher Candidate must hold a bachelor’s degree in a field related to the certification area sought.
- 2. The Teacher Candidate must demonstrate academic excellence within the program through achievement of an overall program GPA of 3.5 or better.
- 3. The Teacher Candidate must demonstrate beginning pedagogical skill through methods coursework and through their 100 hours of pre-student teaching field experiences.
- 4. The Teacher Candidate exhibits behaviors that are consistent with the profession’s mission, values, and ethical principles including the New York State Code of Ethics and SUNY Buffalo State Teacher Education Unit Candidate Dispositions.
- 5. The Teacher Candidate must demonstrate content and pedagogical knowledge through coursework and through successful completion of the appropriate New York State Content Specialty Test(s).
- 6. All Student Teaching application components for the respective certification area must be completed and approved by the Program Director or Department Chair.
- 7. All other policies relating to Student Teaching, as articulated in the Student Teaching Handbook, will apply.
- 8. The Teacher Candidate must agree to all conditions of the Alternative Student Teaching Model.
- 9. The Teacher Candidate understands that requirements for NYS Certification beyond completion of an Educator Preparation Program (application, exams, fingerprints, etc.) must be successfully completed and submitted to NYSED to receive NYS Teacher Certification.
- 10. The Teacher Candidate understands that if employment in the school/district discontinues during the timeframe of the Alternative Student Teaching placement, the specifics of the discontinuance will be reviewed to determine eligibility to continue in the program and, if approved to continue, a new student teaching experience must be undertaken in its entirety, as articulated in the Student Teaching Handbook.

The following conditions will apply in the Alternative Student Teaching Model:

- 1. The school/district will designate a P-12, school-based teacher or supervisor to act as the Mentor Teacher.
- 2. If the school-based supervisor acting as Mentor Teacher is not certified in the certification area sought by the Teacher Candidate, an expert in the certification (or closely related) area will be identified by the school/district, as an additional resource for the Teacher Candidate, the Mentor Teacher, and the College Supervisor.
- 3. The College Supervisor(s) will work with the Mentor Teacher(s) to develop a list of outcomes to be accomplished by the Teacher Candidate during the 16-week Student Teaching placement.
- 4. The Teacher Candidate and the College Supervisor(s) will develop a plan to reach the agreed upon outcomes.
- 5. The Teacher Candidate and the College Supervisor will meet as required to assess progress for each of the identified outcomes.
- 6. The College Supervisor will meet with the Mentor Teacher regularly to evaluate Teacher Candidate progress and written assessment of progress toward Teacher Candidate learning outcomes will be submitted to the College Supervisor at the mid-point and end of the 16-week placement period.
- 7. The appropriate Buffalo State Education Department will monitor the Teacher Candidate’s progress and serve as a resource, as necessary.
- 8. The employed Teacher Candidate will have the same rights and responsibilities as any other Classroom Teacher of Record employed by the school/district.
- 9. The school/district understands that the Teacher Candidate does not hold NYS Teacher Certification and all requirements for NYS Teacher Certification beyond completion of an Educator Preparation Program (application, exams, fingerprints, etc.) are the responsibility of the Teacher Candidate and must be successfully completed and submitted to NYSED to receive NYS Teacher Certification.

By signing, all parties agree to the terms of the Alternative Student Teaching Agreement.

Student Teacher: _____ P-12 School: _____

P-12 Principal Signature _____ Date _____

Mentor Teacher Signature _____ Date _____

Student Teaching Coordinator Signature _____ Date _____

Department Chair Signature _____ Date _____

Teacher Candidate Signature _____ Date _____