

STUDENT TEACHER PLACEMENT

The placement of Student Teachers is taken very seriously by the Teacher Education Department. Every effort is made to provide each Student Teacher an experience that is professionally appropriate. All assignments are made in a joint effort by the SUU's COEHD Field Service Office and Teacher Education Department, and the Local Education Agent (LEA) – school district. Special arrangements by the students, the LEA, or some other school or department of the University are **not** authorized. A Student Teacher shall not make arrangements with a teacher in a public school until notified of the specific student teacher assignment. In placing Student Teachers, the following are considered:

1. **The preference of the Student Teacher**

Whenever possible, Student Teachers are placed in the school districts and grade levels of their choice; however, this is not always possible and is not guaranteed. If Student Teachers encounter a problem in the student teaching experience, the University reserves the right to place him/her in a situation that can be more closely supervised.

2. **The availability of student teaching placements**

There are a limited number of Student Teachers a particular school or school district can adequately and professionally handle. This directly affects the number of Student Teachers who can be placed in a particular location, school, or grade level. Most districts restrict teachers to one Student Teacher per year.

3. **The needs of the school districts**

School districts, individual schools, and teachers frequently request the assistance of Student Teachers with specific skills; for example, ability to play the piano or conduct groups in singing. It is our policy to help school districts by placing Student Teachers in such situations whenever it is professionally and ethically possible to do so.

4. **Student Teachers will be placed with Mentors who:**

- a. Are currently licensed and/or endorsed in their state for all the subjects they teach where a Student Teacher is assigned to them.
- b. Have a record of successful teaching for at least three or more years.
- c. Have the proper dispositions, attitudes, and desire to Mentor a Student Teacher and help them master the national INTASC standards and Utah Effective Teaching Standards as outlined in our Handbook of Student Teaching.

5. **Location of Student Teaching placements**

The Student Teacher will be assigned to a location where the required number of days can be completed by the last day of finals in any given semester. The Field Service Office and the Teacher Education Department will also try to place Student Teachers in the location they request. This is to accommodate travel and living requirements. However, due to school, district, and supervision needs, Student Teachers may not receive their first choice of placement.

6. **Areas of Specialty**

Student Teachers are placed with Mentor Teachers who share the same area of expertise as the Student Teacher in terms of major, minor, and area of specialty.