



Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mark Scott

Board Members

Fred Wilson, Chairman	Hoke Morrow
Helen Hughes, Vice Chairman	Dr. Rick Unruh
Dave Crockett	Bryan Upshaw
Lori Johnson	

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY AND HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

AGREEMENT

As a result of this collaborative and integrative endeavor, the partners recognize the centrality of efforts to improve the learning of children, and the preparation and development of student placements. Acceptance of these primary aims commits the partners to the following shared responsibilities:

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Valdosta State University agrees to enter into a three (3) year agreement with the *Houston County School District* beginning with the 2022-2023 School Year (July 1 – June 30).

1. **Valdosta State University** agrees to send well-prepared student placements who will provide individual and group instruction for *Houston County* students as required by the *Houston County School District*.
2. **Valdosta State University** agrees to maintain a productive professional relationship with the *Houston County School District* by having the professor(s) responsible for student placements assign a supervising teacher to work in close collaboration with school and system personnel to adequately supervise all **Valdosta State University** placements.
3. **Valdosta State University** Dean, Department Chair, and Director of Clinical/Field Experiences will maintain ongoing communication with the appropriate *Houston County School District* administrators regarding all **Valdosta State University** placements.
4. **Valdosta State University** agrees to have all student placements follow system policies, procedures, and professional conduct expectations consistent with the expectations of all *Houston County* personnel.
5. **Valdosta State University** agrees to have all student placements follow the system policies and procedures regarding the conducting of research and the use of audio/videotaping with the *Houston County School District*.

6. **Valdosta State University** agrees to inform the Director of Professional Learning and/or Superintendent or other appropriate personnel, school principal, and school site-supervisor of any serious issue(s) concerning the program or individual student placements.

Initial contact regarding serious issue(s) concerning the program or individual student placements should be made to the Director of Professional Learning. This includes issues or concerns that warrant re-assigning an existing student placement or the removal of an existing student placement.

7. **Valdosta State University** agrees that all student placements placed within the district are eligible for Georgia certification upon completion of the program of study. Each college/university must achieve regional or national accreditation and/or have approved programs leading to Georgia certification in order to place student placements within the *Houston County School District*. Eligibility for Georgia certification is outlined by the Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) and includes criteria that each college/university must meet in order for graduates to achieve Georgia certification.

Listed below are criteria in which they could achieve Georgia certification:

- Both the institution's educator preparation provider (department/school/college of education) and the preparation program are approved by the GaPSC.
- The institution holds a Carnegie Classification of Research University - Very High Research Activity or Research University-High Research Activity (**Only for Upgrade Programs**).
- The institution is accredited by a PSC-accepted national accrediting agency CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) formed as a result of the unification of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) (**Only for Upgrade Programs**).

In addition, Out-of-State Institutions:

- Must be regionally accredited.
- The educator preparation program must be approved by the state in which the institution is based.
- The program must be approved for the field in which the candidate is seeking Georgia certification.
- A full semester of student teaching is required.
- Like candidates from Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) approved Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs), those completing an Out-of-State program must obtain the Pre-Service Certificate, and cooperating teachers must be certified in the field of certification sought by the pre-service candidate. These requirements are in [GaPSC Certification Rule 505-2-.22](#).



HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Houston County School District agrees to enter into a limited agreement with *Valdosta State University* beginning the 2022-2023 School Year (July 1 - June 30). As a professional partner, the **Houston County School District** agrees to accept student placements from *Valdosta State University*.

1. The **Houston County School District** agrees to provide appropriate space in which the student placement can work.
2. The **Houston County School District** agrees to allow student placements to work directly with students, both for individual tutoring and for assisting the classroom teacher with small group and large group instruction.
3. The **Houston County School District** will encourage school/system personnel to be receptive to working in close collaboration with the student placement.
4. The **Houston County School District** agrees to immediately inform the Dean, the Department Chair, or the Director of Clinical/Field Experience of any serious issues concerning the program or individual student placements.

CONCLUSION

By affixing their signatures below, the undersigned parties agree to establish a positive working relationship. This partnership is built upon trust and respect for each other's primary mission, namely the enhancement of the student placement's experience and the promotion of high quality educational opportunities for the students of the *Houston County School District*. However, should circumstances arise that give reasons for dissolution of the partnership, the parties will mutually agree upon the terms of termination. In addition, failure of either party to adhere to the terms set forth in the agreement will warrant termination of said agreement.

The **Valdosta State University/Houston County School District** partnership is officially recognized and agreed upon effective this 1st day of July, 2022.

DocuSigned by:

Robert T. Smith

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Provost and VPAA

Approved as to form
Valdosta State University
Office of Legal Affairs
Justin M. Arrington, Chief Legal Affairs Officer
September 14, 2022

Sharon Moore

Director of Professional Learning
Houston County School District

