

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION FIELD EXPERIENCES

AND

Wattsburg Area School District

Cooperative Pre-Service Field Students and Student Teaching Program:

Elementary and Early Childhood Education

The Pennsylvania State University, College of Education, hereafter designated as the College and Wattsburg Area School District, hereafter designated as the District, agree to operate a Cooperative Pre-Service Field Students and Student Teaching Program at the District effective Spring 2021-Spring 2026. The following items represent understandings of agreement reached relative to this cooperative relationship.

I.A. The College will arrange to place a mutually agreed upon number of field experience students at the District during each of the two academic semesters effective Spring 2021-Spring 2026. These students will be individuals enrolled in the College's Department of Curriculum and Instruction who are pursuing elementary and early childhood education certification. These students will be individuals enrolled in either the College's pre-service field experience (CI 495A) or in the College's student teaching field experience (CI 495 D/F).

B. Each student will be assigned to a mentor teacher, mutually agreed upon and selected by the College faculty and the District personnel. The mentor teacher, in each instance, will provide (1) guidance, assistance, and feedback for the pre-service student or student teacher, and will provide opportunities for the student or student teacher, and will provide opportunities for the student to practice knowledge and skills from the College coursework in the classroom setting, and (2) evaluation using the College provided evaluation form. The mentor teacher may select to host a pre-service field experience student for a period of 7-14 weeks, a student teacher for 7-16 weeks, or a mentor may select to host a student whose pre-service and student teaching experience is "linked" across two College semesters.

C. The period of time during which student teachers will be on assignment at the District will parallel the period of the academic semesters at the College. Each student teacher will spend approximately 7-16 weeks at the District, so that the period of assignment will be similar to that of other student teachers placed at other practicum locations in the Commonwealth. The period of time during which pre-service field experience students will be on assignment at the District will be 7-14 weeks.

D. College faculty will be available to periodically supervise pre-service field experience students and student teachers. They will perform the supervisory responsibilities in harmony with the standards and practices published by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction's Office of Field Experience, which

will also provide and collect the appropriate student teaching evaluation forms upon the conclusion of each semester.

E. Financial Consideration: The College will pay a lump sum honorarium of \$300 to each teacher who mentors a student teacher (CI 495D /F). The payment will be distributed directly to the mentor teacher at the end of the semester that she or he hosts a student teacher.

II. At any time a mentor teacher or a District administrator wishes assistance or support in connection with any aspect of the above program, she or he is free to contact the university supervisor and / or the coordinator of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction's Office of Field Experiences.

III. Students selected for a placement at the District will have signed a statement indicating that they are aware of the fact that they are in the location in a guest / host relationship. Any student whose professional performance or conduct is not consistent with the educational and philosophical objectives and the overall direction of the District will be withdrawn by the District or by the College. In practice, it will be the College's responsibility to advise the student of any such action which is to be taken.

IV. Prior to the start of the field experience, students selected for a placement at the District will have obtained background clearances: Pennsylvania Department of Education Arrest / Conviction Report & Certification (Act 24), Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Records (formerly Act 34) and Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (formerly Act 151), Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Clearance (Act 114) through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The College agrees to provide Act 126 training for its students prior to placement in the program. Any student who does not obtain these items will be withdrawn from the field experience. It will be the College's responsibility to collect copies of these clearances and certificate of completion for training and, if the District wishes, share these documents with designated District administrators.

V. The College agrees to inform its students that they must undergo a tuberculin skin test prior to placement. It will be the student's responsibility to provide the District with a form, completed and signed by the physician responsible for performance of the test that indicates either (1) a nonsignificant Mantoux test reaction using the two-step skin test procedure, or a nonsignificant multiple puncture test reaction; or (2) a significant tuberculin skin test reaction, with a negative chest x-ray for current tuberculosis disease.

VI. In order to maximize the professional advantages of this program, not only to the student participants who come to the District, but also to the District itself and to the College, continued input from individuals at the District and at the College is essential. Changes in the program will be possible only as such feedback from the District and the College are discussed and mutually agreed upon.

VII. The College agrees that it will inform its students to secure personal medical coverage prior to placement.

VII. Neither of the parties shall assume any liabilities to each other. As to liability to each other or death to persons, or damages to property, the parties do not waive any defense as a result of entering into this agreement.

VIII. If either party decides to dissolve the relationship, advance notice must be given in the interest of those students in the program. This notification period must be initiated before the beginning or on the first day of the prior semester.

The authorized signatures below confirm the above agreement:

Date

2/19/2021

Wattsburg Area School District
Pamela Silver

Date

2/19/2021

Department Head
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Penn State Behrend
Michele M. Spangler

Date

Michele M. Spangler, Assistant Treasurer
The Pennsylvania State University

For Review