


JESSE BACON, SUPERINTENDENT

ADRIENNE USHER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

BRANDY HOWARD, CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

TROY WOOD, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

TO: Dr. Jesse Bacon, Superintendent
Adrienne Usher, Assistant Superintendent

FROM: Althea Hurt, Director of Human Resources 

DATE: March 14, 2023

RE: Option 9 Partnership with University of the Cumberland

Attached is a proposed partnership agreement between the Bullitt County Public Schools District and the University of the Cumberland to implement an Option 9 program. Participants in the program will be classified employees working as paraeducators in the district. Participants will earn a bachelor's degree from the University of the Cumberland and initial certification from EPSB within three (3) years while employed in the district. Participants will work under the supervision of a mentor teacher. The mentor teacher will be paid a stipend by the district which would be the only cost the district would incur for the program.

Attachments: Option 9 Program Proposal
Option 9 Agreement
Option 9 District Mentoring Plan

BULLITT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS AN EQUAL EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT INSTITUTION

Option Nine Program Proposal between University of the Cumberland and Bullitt County Public Schools

Includes a residency or paraprofessional component which employs the person within the district for the duration of the program to gain work experience to supplement the expedited program and reduced coursework.

To enroll in the Option Nine program, a candidate must be employed full-time as a paraprofessional serving in an instructional assistant position in the district. The district will provide a mentor for each candidate enrolled in the Option Nine program at the University of the Cumberland for the duration of the time the candidate is enrolled in the program. Option Nine candidates will be assigned mentors who are skilled in each of the subject areas the candidate will be responsible for teaching pursuant to the certification they are seeking.

The program will result in a bachelor's degree and initial certification within three (3) school years.

Utilizes experienced teachers employed by the district to provide coaching and mentoring to the candidates.

When selecting mentors, the district will give first preference to a teacher who demonstrates:

- Effective classroom management techniques that promote an environment conducive to learning;
- Best practices for delivery of instruction;
- Knowledge and use of multiple forms of assessment;
- Mastery of the content knowledge or subject matter in which the Option Nine candidate will receive certification;
- Aptitude and ability to contribute to the mentoring and development of a candidate enrolled in the Option Nine program; and
- Creation of a learning environment that values and builds upon the diverse backgrounds of students.

The mentoring teacher will have:

- A valid teaching certificate for the grade and subject in which the Option Nine candidate will receive certification;
- At least two (2) years of teaching experience; and
- Time available to provide adequate mentoring to the candidate.
- The school district will be responsible for compensating mentors for their time spent working with the candidate(s).

The mentoring teacher will be responsible for providing the Option Nine candidate with proper experience and counsel in planning and presenting effective learning experiences in the classroom for a minimum of 50 clock hours per year for the first two years. The district will be responsible for monitoring the hours and reporting those to the university.

Designed to meet the needs of the participating district and may include an emphasis in developing a teacher pipeline for the district's students, improving the numbers of underrepresented populations among the district's workforce, or focusing on increasing the number of teachers with certification areas that are in high demand.

The Option Nine program will focus on developing a teacher pipeline for students in the Bullitt County Schools District by getting instructional assistants with classroom experience certified to teach in the district through the partnership with the University of the Cumberland. Only instructional assistants who show promise as a classroom teacher are eligible for the program. Candidates will be selected by the district and recommended to the university.

A school district shall ensure the availability of funding for each candidate employed within the district for the duration of the candidate's participation in the program.

The Bullitt County Public Schools District approved the partnership agreement and board minutes are attached. The agreement includes the assurance that the candidate will be employed throughout the program. The agreement does not require the district to continue employing the candidate after the candidate has received initial certification. The agreement further states that if a district ends the partnership, they shall no longer accept new candidates but shall continue the partnership until the employed candidates complete the program or are no longer employed.

The program shall only include the EPP's existing undergraduate initial certification educator preparation programs approved by the EPSB.

Programs offered to candidates through the Option Nine program will include all University of the Cumberland's initial undergraduate certification programs in early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school approved by the EPSB.

An agreement between the Bullitt County Public Schools District and the University of the Cumberland to collaborate on the expedited route program is attached.

An understanding that the program shall not negatively impact the accreditation of the EPP.

The program will not negatively impact the accreditation of the University of the Cumberland as all program requirements will be met with each candidate participating in the Option Nine program. A planned program example is attached.

Contact information for the EPP leader and the district leader.

District

University

Jesse Bacon, Ed.D

Jesse.bacon@bullitt.kyschools.us

(502) 869-8000

Description of when the expedited route program is offered, the method of delivery and the certification areas included.

Courses will be offered in the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms. Courses will be offered in-seat and online. Certification areas included will be all early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school certification areas approved by EPSB.

2	2	Art	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KAR	
3	3	Biological Science	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KBI	
5	5	Chemistry	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KCH	
14	14	Elementary	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KEL	This program includes an option for dual certification in LBD
16	16	English	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KEN	
20	20	French	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KFR	
23	23	Health	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KHE	
28	28	Instrumental Music	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KMI	
29	29	Integrated Music	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KMU	
4264		Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KIE	
33	33	Learning and Behavior Disorders	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KLB	dual certification with P-5 or 5-9 only
37	37	Mathematics	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KMA	
2324	38	Middle School English	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KG30	
2228	38	Middle School Mathematics	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KG71	LBD may be used as a certification area
2420	38	Middle School Science	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KG50	
2516	38	Middle School Social Studies	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KG20	
40	40	Physical Education	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KPE	
41	41	Physics	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KPH	
56	56	Social Studies	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KSS	
58	58	Spanish	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KSP	
65	65	Vocal Music	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KMV	

A process to maintain regular communication between the employing school and EPP to assist the resident as needed and address identified areas of improvement.

The mentoring teacher will submit evaluation documents and field hours documentation to the University of the Cumberlands each semester for the duration of the program. Two hundred twenty hours will be documented during the first two years of the program; 120 course-required hours and 100 district-required hours.

The University of the Cumberlands will designate a representative to serve as a liaison between the university and the district and school in which the Option Nine candidate is employed.

The university representative will work closely with the Option Nine candidate during the third year of the program, including a minimum of four observations of the candidate providing hands-on learning experiences in the classroom.

Explanation of how the program requirements contained in 16 KAR 9:110 Sections 2, 3 and 4 will be addressed.

Section 2. Residency

The district will provide a paid residency program with mentors for each candidate enrolled in the Option Nine program at the University of the Cumberlands for the duration of the time the candidate is enrolled in the program. The residency will allow the candidate to gain work experience in the grade spans and content areas in which the candidate will be seeking certification. Mentors skilled in each of

An Option Nine candidate shall not have responsibility for the supervision or instruction of students without the direct supervision of a certified educator.

Option Nine candidates will complete the same field experience requirements as traditional students in 16 KAR 5:040. Specific field experiences to be completed in identified courses are included in syllabi. In addition to course-required hours, the Option Nine candidate will complete additional hours with the mentor teacher in the areas of planning and presenting effective learning experiences in the classroom for a minimum of 50 clock hours per year for the first two years. The district will be responsible for monitoring the hours and reporting hours to the university.

[illegible]

SPED 336 Educational Assessment and Prescriptive Programing of Individuals with Disabilities Part I (CP, S, E,	X		X	X		X	X		X		
SPED 337 Educational Assessment and Prescriptive Programing of Individuals with Disabilities Part II (CP, S, E,	X		X	X		X	X		X		
SPED 435 Special Education Methods and Materials (Mild Disabilities) (P-12)(CP, S, E,	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
SPED 436 Special Education Methods and Materials (EBD) (P- 12 12) (CP, S, E, CM)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
EDUC 332 Reading I (CP, S, E, CM)	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			20
EDUC 338 Reading II (CP, S, E, CM)	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			20
Courses (Knowledge Strands)	InTASC Standards										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
MATH 130 Concepts of Math for the Elementary and Middle School Teacher (CP, S, CM)				X							
MATH 230 Concepts of Math for the Elementary and Middle School Teacher (CP, S, CM)				X							
MATH 332 Math Methods P-5 (CP, S, CM)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			10
MATH 333 Middle School Math Methods (CP, S, CM)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
ELEM 333 Children's Literature (CP, S, E)	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		
ELEM 334 P-5 Teaching of Social Studies (CP, S, E, CM)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			10
ELEM 339 P-5 Teaching of Science (CP, S, E,	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			10
ELMS 335 The Middle School (CP, S, E, CM)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
ART 331 School Art	X	X		X	X			X	X		10

Section 4. Student Teaching

The student teaching experience will meet all requirements of 16 KAR 5:040.

In the 3rd year of the program, the Option Nine candidate will be placed in a setting that is consistent with his or her planned certification content area and grade range.

A qualified cooperating teacher will be assigned to each Option Nine candidate. The cooperating teacher shall meet eligibility requirements and will be chosen by the university and the district representatives jointly.

Each Option Nine candidate will be trained in and adhere to the Professional Code of Ethics.

During the first 2 years of the residency, the candidate will complete a minimum of 200 clock hours of field experiences in a variety of primary through grade 12 school settings as outlined above.

The district and university will maintain electronic records of field hours and student teaching performance to confirm that all third-year residents meet the student teaching requirements.

A properly trained university supervisor will work closely with the Option Nine candidate during the third year of the program, including a minimum of four observations of the candidate providing hands-on learning experiences in the classroom. The university supervisor will be available to work with the candidate and school if problems arise related to student teaching.

All candidates shall meet the admission requirements established in 16 KAR 5:020.

Option Nine candidates will meet the admission requirements to an undergraduate, initial certification educator preparation program.[16 KAR 5:020, Section 1(2)]:

- A cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale; or a grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.0 scale on the last 30 hours of credit completed.
- Successful completion of one or a combination of the following assessments of basic knowledge:
 - ACT with a composite score of 22 or the corresponding minimum scores:
 - Reading: 20
 - Writing or English: 18
 - Math: 19
 - Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (CASE):
 - Reading (5713): 156
 - Writing (5723): 162
 - Mathematics (5733): 150

Option Nine Agreement

This agreement between the University of the Cumberlands and the _____ school district is entered into to provide expedited Kentucky teacher certification to participants. Participants will earn a bachelor's degree from the University of the Cumberlands and initial certification from the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board within three (3) school years.

By signing this agreement, the Bullitt County Public Schools District agrees to:

1. Employ the participant in a residency or paraprofessional program within the school district for the duration of the program as long as the participant is making successful progress in the Option Nine program;
2. Utilize experienced teachers employed by the district to provide coaching and mentoring to the participant;
3. Ensure at least one mentor is certified in the area in which certification is being sought;
4. Ensure the availability of funding for each participant for the duration of the candidate's participation in the program as long as the participant is making successful progress in the Option Nine program;
5. Ensure at least one (1) year of employment provides hands-on experience in the area in which certification is being sought;
6. Continue this partnership until the district's employed participants for Option 9 certification complete the program or are no longer employed by the district; and
7. If the school district determines to end the partnership, the district shall no longer accept new candidates into the program.

By signing this agreement, the University of the Cumberlands agrees to:

1. Accept work experience in place of student teaching; and
2. Assign a university supervisor to work with the participant during the third year of the program.

This agreement is entered into on the ____ day of _____, 20__ by

_____ and _____
Superintendent University Representative

Option Nine District Mentoring Plan

The district will provide a mentor to each candidate enrolled in the Option Nine program at the University of the Cumberland. When selecting a mentor, the district will give first preference to a teacher who demonstrates:

- Effective classroom management techniques that promote an environment conducive to learning;
- Best practices for delivery of instruction;
- Knowledge and use of multiple forms of assessment;
- Mastery of the content knowledge or subject matter in which the Option Nine candidate will receive certification;
- Aptitude and ability to contribute to the mentoring and development of a candidate enrolled in the Option Nine program; and
- Creation of a learning environment that values and builds upon the diverse backgrounds of students.

The mentoring teacher will have:

- A valid teaching certificate for the grade and subject in which the Option Nine candidate will receive certification;
- At least two (2) years of teaching experience; and
- Time available to provide adequate mentoring to the candidate.

The mentoring teacher will be responsible for providing the Option Nine candidate with proper experience and counsel in planning and presenting effective learning experiences in the classroom for a minimum of 50 clock hours per year for the first two years. The district will be responsible for monitoring the hours and reporting those to the university.

The mentoring teacher will submit evaluation documents to the University of the Cumberland.

The University of the Cumberland will designate a representative to serve as a liaison between the university and the district and school in which the Option Nine candidate is employed.

The university representative will work closely with the Option Nine candidate during the third year of the program, including a minimum of four observations of the candidate providing hands-on learning experiences in the classroom.