



FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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Linda C. Gearheart, Board Chair - District 1  
William Newsome, Jr., Vice-Chair - District 3  
Dr. Chandra Varia, Member- District 2  
Keith Smallwood, Member - District 4  
Steve Slone, Member - District 5

**Consent Agenda Item (Action Item):** Consider/Approve the Option Nine Program Agreement between the University of the Cumberlands and the Floyd County Board of Education

**Applicable State or Regulations:** KRS 160.290 General Powers and duties of the Local Board of Education.

**Fiscal/Budgetary Impact:** N/A

**History/Background** The Option Nine Program allows currently employed instructional assistants to work toward their teaching degree in a 3 year period rather than the regular 4 years. The daily work inside the classroom setting would be considered by the university as clinical and field hours required for the degree. A district must enter into an agreement with a university and then the agreement must be submitted to the Educational Professional Standards Board for final approval. Once approved, our employees may enroll at the university and begin coursework. Tuition and fees will be the responsibility of the employee, the district will provide a mentoring teacher and flexible scheduling to allow for clinical experiences needed.

**Recommended Action:** Approve the agreement as presented.

**Contact Person(s):** Angela Duncan

11/14  
Principal

Angela Duncan  
Director

Anna Whitaker Shepherd  
Superintendent

Date: April 11, 2023

**Option Nine Agreement**

This agreement between the University of the Cumberlands and the Floyd County 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 Floyd County school 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 April, 2024 by

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair/Superintendent University Representative