**Spencer County Public Schools 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 Cumberlands. 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 Cumberlands.

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.