

DATE:

4/15/2023

AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):

Consider/Approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Northern Kentucky University (NKU) and the Kenton County School District (KCSD) for Instructional Assistants (IAs) throughout KCSD to continue the partnership in an Option 9 Alternative Certification Program at NKU to gain Kentucky Teacher Certification while employed as an IA .

APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:

01.11 General Powers and Duties of the Board

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

Last year, Kentucky approved an Option 9 alternative certification pathway for earning Kentucky Teacher Certification. This is an expedited route to certification that results in a bachelor's degree and initial certification within three school years. The route requires a college or university to partner with a district to develop a program that includes a residency component where IAs work in their current role and gain their student teaching/practicum experience with a district mentor. Through this route, KCSD IAs no longer be forced to take a leave of absence to complete student teaching. Not only will the continued partnership grow the education profession, it will serve as a first-hand recruiting tool for administrators who have IAs they can build and grow into future teachers. This year's partnership was a great success for the four IAs involved as they continue work in KCSD while gaining certification.

FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:

\$0 cost to the district

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement between Northern Kentucky University (NKU) and the Kenton County School District (KCSD) for Instructional Assistants (IAs) throughout KCSD to continue the partnership in an Option 9 Alternative Certification Program at NKU to gain Kentucky Teacher Certification while employed as an IA.

CONTACT PERSON:

Malina Owens

Principal/Administrator



District Administrator



Superintendent

Use this form to submit your request to the Superintendent for items to be added to the Board Meeting Agenda.

Principal –complete, print, sign and send to your Director. Director –if approved, sign and put in the Superintendent's mailbox.

**NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR OPTION 9**

This Memorandum of Agreement ("Agreement"), dated May 6th, 2024, is between Northern Kentucky University College of Education ("NKU COE") and Kenton County School District ("School District").

WHEREAS, School District operates schools located in the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati region and provided education for PK-12 student;

WHEREAS, NKU COE offers educator preparation programs at the bachelor, masters, specialist, and doctoral levels for undergraduate and graduate education Candidates;

WHEREAS, NKU COE and School District desire to establish a mutually beneficial partnership;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises herein, NKU COE and School District agree that field and clinical education shall be covered by and subject to the following terms and conditions:

The Northern Kentucky University College of Education would like partner with Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES) districts to provide expedited Kentucky teacher certification to participants, pursuant to KRS 161.048.

The participant teachers from NKCES districts will complete a bachelor's degree and initial certification in a three-year period while working in a non-teaching position in a school district.

Responsibilities of NKU:

- a) NKU will advise participants on which classes to take in which semester.
- b) NKU will offer classes in formats that are appropriate for the unique population of Option 9 students (online, in summer/winter institutes, on evenings or weekends).
- c) NKU will follow Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) guidelines for admission to an undergraduate, initial certification educator preparation program [16 KAR 5:020, Section 1(2)].
- d) NKU will utilize work experience settings for fulfillment of student teaching expectations. (NKU may recommend, however, that participants have some experiences in slightly varied settings, depending upon certification areas.)
- e) NKU will assign a university supervisor to work with the participant during the third year of the program.

Responsibilities of School District:

- a) 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;
- b) Utilize experienced teachers employed by the district to provide coaching and mentoring to the participant;
- c) Ensure at least one mentor is certified in the area in which certification is being sought;
- d) Ensure the availability of funding (as a hired employee within the district) 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;
- e) Ensure at least one (1) year of employment provides hands-on experience in the area in which certification is being sought; and
- f) Continue this partnership until the district's employed participants for Option 9 certification complete the program or are no longer employed by the district.

Responsibilities of Participants:

- a) Participants must apply to NKU as an undergraduate student.
- b) Participants must meet admission requirements as established by EPSB in 16 KAR 5:020, Section 1(2).
- c) Participants will be responsible for completing any state requirements necessary for certification in their program area(s).

SIGNATURES

School District Superintendent

Date

Ginni Fair, Dean
NKU College of Education

Date

Diana McGill, NKU Provost & Executive VP

Date