

Memorandum of Understanding  
Between  
Western Kentucky University  
And  
Christian County Public Schools

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the Western Kentucky University, and agency and instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Western Kentucky University), and Christian County Public Schools effective as of the last date signed below.

WHEREAS, the school principal is critical to equitable access to highly effective instruction and opportunities for all learners in the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS there is a shortage of highly qualified principal candidates to meet the unique needs of their school communities;

WHEREAS, it has been established that the vast majority of public educators return to their home regions to teach and lead;

WHEREAS, to support districts and communities in developing equity driven leaders committed to meeting the unique needs of all students and teachers in the Commonwealth;

NOW THEREFORE, Western Kentucky University and Christian County Public Schools agree as follows:

Western Kentucky University Level Up Leadership Academy (hereinafter referred to as LULA)

1. Western Kentucky University will collaborate with Christian County Schools to provide 36 hours of professional learning focused on leadership development to candidates selected by the district. Western Kentucky University and Christian County Schools will co-deliver leadership content that aligns with key concepts and assessments in EDAD 602 Introduction to Leadership and EDAD 604 Creating a Culture of Achievement.
2. Upon completion of LULA, participants can apply for 6 hours of articulated credit toward an educational leadership program at WKU. The 6 hours of credit may be utilized only at Western Kentucky University and will be posted to a candidate's transcript upon successful completion of one of the university's educational leadership programs leading to state certification (principal, SOI, DPP or DoSE).
3. A fee of \$350 will be assessed for each participant at the beginning of the LULA program by either Christian County Public Schools or the candidate and aid said fee is non-refundable.

4. Christian County Public Schools will be responsible for recruiting a cohort of not less than 10 participants.
5. Christian County Public Schools will be responsible for providing a program liaison to work with the assigned faculty from WKU.

#### Western Kentucky University Grow Your Own Leaders Tuition Matching Program

1. Western Kentucky University will match tuition funds provided by the Christian County Public Schools for district selected principal candidates accepted and completing WKU Principal Preparation Programs.
2. Scholarship funds will be \$3,500 from Western Kentucky University, \$3,500 from Christian County Public Schools and \$3,500 from the candidate.
3. Last dollar scholarship definition: The Grow Your Own scholarship program is a last dollar tuition scholarship program. The shared tuition obligation as described in the GYO agreement is calculated after all other student scholarship assistance including WKU Merit, WKU TopDollar, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Scholarships are applied to the billable tuition. Obligations are calculated up to the cost of tuition. There is no opportunity for residual assistance once the cost of tuition is satisfied. Students attending WKU in person are responsible for room and board costs. All students are responsible for fees including books, study abroad, and campus participation fees.
4. Students are responsible for fees and textbook purchases including the Big Red Backpack (unless the student opts out of the Big Red Backpack through their MyWKU account). Districts may select to pay these fees for their students but such arrangements are made directly between the district and the student.
5. Students ARE responsible for paying for the student portion of the tuition obligation on-time. Late fees may apply for students who register late and/or pay their portion of tuition after the posted due date.
6. Scholarship recipients are from principal candidates recruited by and recommended by the district.
7. All candidates and scholarship recipients must complete and meet all application and admission criteria established by WKU.
8. Clinical and field experiences will be conducted in the candidate's home district or other district as agreed to in the MOU.
9. Candidates pursuing principal certification at the Masters, Rank I or certification only routes are eligible for the scholarship.
10. WKU will provide course content including scope and sequence to Christian County Public Schools and will collaborate with Christian County Public Schools to develop appropriate course delivery models.
11. Christian County will provide a program liaison to work directly with WKU faculty and staff to coordinate candidates and tuition or billing related issues.

12. The school district point of contact is the official district officer confirming sponsored employees. The district is responsible for keeping WKU up to date on sponsored students. Districts are responsible for notifying WKU if an employee, previously participating in the program, no longer qualifies for the funding support PRIOR to the start of the next semester. Grow Your Own **contract** questions should be directed to Rob Akers, [Rob.Akers@wku.edu](mailto:Rob.Akers@wku.edu).

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Dr. Corinne Murphy, Dean CEBS  
Western Kentucky University

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chris Bentzel, Superintendent  
Christian County Public Schools

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

