

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 _____ 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 _____, 20__ by

_____ and _____
Superintendent University Representative



UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS

Option 9 Frequently Asked Questions for Principals and Superintendents

1. What is the Option 9 program?

Option 9 is a new alternative route to certification created by legislature that allows a candidate to complete a bachelor's degree and initial teacher certification in a three-year period while working in a non-teaching position in a school district. This is the only alternative route that does not require a bachelor's degree for admission (KDE (Kentucky Department of Education), 2022). This program is 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.

2. How is this program different from a traditional undergraduate education program?

In the Option 9 program, candidates must complete similar requirements as traditional undergraduate education. The difference is that candidates will be employed in a partnering school district working as a paraeducator while they complete their degree and obtain a teaching license.

3. What are the district's responsibilities for this program?

The district is responsible for the following:

- Employ the candidate in a residency or paraprofessional program within the school district for the duration of the program as long as the candidate is making successful progress in the Option Nine program
- Periodically releasing the candidate to complete required observation hours during the school day
- Ensure the availability of funding for each candidate for the duration of the candidate's participation in the program as long as the candidate is making successful progress in the Option Nine program
- Ensure at least one (1) year of employment provides hands-on experience in the area in which certification is being sought
- Report mentoring hours yearly when employment recertification is sought from Option 9 Director
- Continue this partnership until the district's employed candidates for Option 9 certification complete the program or are no longer employed by the district
- If the school district determines to end the partnership, the district shall no longer accept new candidates into the program

During the Fall or Spring semester before student teaching (the capstone semester), the candidate will be enrolled in EDUC 331 and EDUC 430/432 (for IECE: IECE 431, 434, and 436). These are the candidate's capstone courses. The candidate will be placed with the cooperating teacher(s) they will student teach under during this year. During this year, those cooperating teacher(s) will serve as the candidate's mentor(s). Candidates will be required to complete observation hours with trained cooperating teacher(s) during the capstone semester.

The district can handle observation hours during the capstone semester one of two ways:

- a. Release the candidate to complete required observation hours during that semester, but require the candidate to serve as a paraeducator in their current position
- b. Allow the candidate to work as a paraeducator under the assigned cooperating teacher(s)

During the Fall or Spring semester after the capstone semester, the candidate's final semester at UC, candidates will student teach under their cooperating teacher(s). Candidates will be required to work exclusively with these cooperating teacher(s) until student teaching is complete.

10. May the district select cooperating teachers for the candidate's final year?

Yes. The district may select the cooperating teacher(s) according to [16 KAR 5:040 \(Section 1\)](#). The district must notify the Option 9 Director when the cooperating teacher(s) are selected. The cooperating teacher(s) must be selected before the candidate begins their capstone semester. The Option 9 Director will work with the district to ensure that the cooperating teacher is trained and selected before the beginning of the capstone semester.

11. What does student teaching look like during the candidate's final school year?

During the Fall or Spring semester after the capstone semester, candidates will student teach under their cooperating teacher(s). Candidates will be required to work exclusively with these cooperating teacher(s) until student teaching is complete. The candidate will still be required to fulfill duties as an aide in your district during this time, but those duties may be slightly altered, as the candidate is expected to meet all student teaching requirements.

12. Is the district required to hire the candidate after they complete the Option 9 program?

No. The school district is not obligated to hire the candidate after they complete the program.

13. Who should I reach out to if I have questions regarding the Option 9 program?

Please contact Dr. Sheena Lawson (sheena.lawson@ucumberland.edu) for questions about partnerships and the Option 9 program.

**Option Nine Program Proposal between
University of the Cumberland and <District>**

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.

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	
4	38	Middle School Social Studies	Baccalaureate	Initial Undergraduate	Traditional	KG20	
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

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.