



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Jefferson County Public Schools

And

University of the Cumberland

Regarding the Option 9 Partnership

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into on this 17 day of June, 2025 between Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) and the University of the Cumberland (UC) to establish a partnership for implementing the Option 9 expedited route to teacher certification as established under 16 KAR 9:110. This agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of each party in supporting candidates pursuing a bachelor's degree and initial teacher certification within three (3) school years.

I. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize the partnership between JCPS and UC to facilitate the Option 9 program, ensuring compliance with Kentucky regulations and providing high-quality teacher preparation. This agreement supports candidates in obtaining teacher certification while employed in a classified position within JCPS.

II. Responsibilities of Jefferson County Public Schools

JCPS agrees to:

1. Employ Program students during their enrollment in the Option 9 program, contingent upon the availability of appropriate positions within the district. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating a right to employment. Continued employment shall be contingent on satisfactory performance and compliance with all JCPS policies and procedures and applicable laws.
2. Select experienced teachers as mentors to provide coaching and support to the participants.
3. Ensure that at least one mentor teacher holds certification in the area for which the candidate seeks certification.
4. Monitor and verify that each participant completes a minimum of 200 clock hours of field experiences within the first two years, including engagement with diverse student populations and participation in various instructional activities.
5. Provide opportunities for participants to assume major instructional responsibilities during their third year under the supervision of a certified educator.
6. Ensure candidates receive training on and adhere to the Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel, as outlined in 16 KAR 1:020.
7. Maintain and report mentoring and field experience records to UC.
8. Continue this partnership until the employed participants complete the program or are no longer employed by the district. Should JCPS choose to discontinue this partnership, it will not accept new candidates into the program.

III. Responsibilities of the University of the Cumberlands

UC agrees to:

1. Ensure that the Option 9 program includes only existing undergraduate initial certification educator preparation programs approved by the EPSB.
2. Option 9 candidates are still expected to student teach according to Kentucky's regulations but will continue their work during this time.

3. Assign a university supervisor to each participant during their third year of the program to conduct a minimum of four (4) observations and provide necessary support.
4. Work collaboratively with JCPS to provide ongoing feedback, address candidate areas of improvement, and ensure compliance with 16 KAR 9:110.
5. Designate a representative to serve as a liaison between UC, JCPS, and the participating schools.
6. Ensure that the expedited route program does not negatively impact the accreditation of UC's Educator Preparation Provider (EPP).

IV. Mentoring Plan

JCPS will provide a mentor to each candidate enrolled in the Option 9 program. Mentors will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated effective classroom management skills.
- Proficiency in instructional best practices and multiple forms of assessment.
- Mastery of subject matter relevant to the candidate's certification area.
- Ability to contribute to the candidate's professional development.
- A valid teaching certificate and at least two (2) years of teaching experience.

Mentors will:

- Provide a minimum of 50 clock hours of mentoring per year during the first two years of the program.
- Submit evaluation documents to UC.

V. Term and Termination

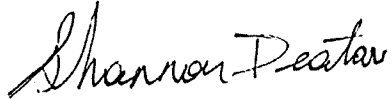
This agreement shall remain in effect indefinitely from the effective date unless terminated by either party. If JCPS terminates this agreement, no new candidates shall be accepted into the program.

VI. Signatures

This agreement is entered into on the 17 day of June ²⁰²⁵~~20~~, by:

Superintendent, Jefferson County Public Schools

University Representative, University of the Cumberlands

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon Deaton".

Dean, School of Education
University of the Cumberlands

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed.

Jefferson County Public Schools:

Dr. H Brian Yearwood
Superintendent

Date

Society for the Prevention of Aggressiveness and Violence among Adolescents:

MW Hudson

6/16/25

Mark W. Hudson, President

Date