Western Governors University
4001 South 700 East, Suite 700, SLC, UT 84107

STUDENT TEACHING LETTER OF AGREEMENT - CALIFORNIA

Tier 1: Primary Partner

This Student Teaching Letter of Agreement (Agreement) is made between Western Governors University, a Utah nonprofit corporation (WGU), and Jefferson School District ("District"), and is effective as of the date of the last signature below ("Effective Date").

Thank you for working with Western Governors University (WGU) for the placement of student teachers. Our goal is to establish a relationship of collaboration that benefits your district/school and WGU Teacher Candidates, and that allows us to work together for continuous improvement. We look forward to working together for the benefit of your future educators.

WGU is regionally accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), and the WGU Teacher Education programs are further accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). WGU represents that each Teacher Candidate assigned to the District for Student Teaching is validly enrolled in an approved WGU credentialing program and meets the District's background requirements.

A. Mutual Expectations

A Primary Partner is a district/school where WGU places Teacher Candidates for a Field Experience with Cooperating Teachers, with an aim to co-construct a mutually beneficial arrangement for clinical preparation and the continuous improvement of Teacher Candidates, and to share accountability for Teacher Candidate outcomes. The school administrator and Cooperating Teacher will have the opportunity to provide critical feedback to inform program improvement through surveys at the end of each cohort and may receive an invitation to participate in an annual focus group.

B. Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement, capitalized terms will have the following meanings:

- Teacher Candidate refers to a student enrolled in a WGU program leading to an education credential.
- Cooperating Teacher (or host teacher) refers to a district employee who is the teacher-of-record in the classroom where the Teacher Candidate is assigned. A Cooperating Teacher may or may not be a Clinical Supervisor.
- Clinical Supervisor refers to a present or former employee of District, retired educator, or any other individual meeting the criteria of "supervisor" established by WGU for this position, and engaged by WGU or District, to supervise a Teacher Candidate's progress during a minimum of six observations. WGU shall be responsible for the selection, assignment, training, and compensation of Clinical Supervisors. WGU welcomes nominations of Clinical Supervisors by the District/school.
- Preclinical Experience refers to the active participation by a Teacher Candidate in a wide range of in-classroom experiences in order to develop the skills and confidence necessary to be an effective teacher and prepare for Student Teaching. Students reflect on and document at least 75 hours of in-classroom observations (15 hours of which must involve direct engagement with students in a classroom) leading up to Student Teaching.
- Student Teaching (or demonstration teaching) refers to the greater of the then-current WGU full-time and continuous requirement in California (currently 13 weeks, or 16 weeks for special education) or the State's and/or District's minimum requirement for Student Teaching. Student Teaching shall satisfy all applicable WGU and State requirements.
- Field Experience refers collectively to the Preclinical Experience and Student Teaching.

C. Cooperating Teacher Standards

District, with the input of WGU, will provide the Teacher Candidate with a Student Teaching assignment in a school and classes of District under the direct supervision and instruction of a Cooperating Teacher that meets the following minimum requirements:

- Has documented completion of training/professional development equivalent to 10 hours that includes: a two-hour orientation to the program curriculum, and eight hours of training in effective supervision approaches such as cognitive coaching, adult learning theory, and current content-specific pedagogy and instructional practices, as required by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC);
- Holds a clear credential in the content area in which the Cooperating Teacher is providing supervision;
- Has a minimum of three years of teaching experience (five years preferred) of content area K-12 teaching experience, with two or more years teaching in the current school, and has demonstrated exemplary teaching practices as determined by the employer and the preparation program;
- Demonstrates a positive impact on student learning in the classroom;
- Demonstrates ability to serve as a positive role model and mentor;
- Demonstrates actions related to leadership qualities and collaborating with others;
- Has successfully and with positive impact mentored teacher candidates, colleagues, and/or adults;
- Uses a computer to correspond with WGU staff and complete online evaluation forms; and
- Models consistently the dispositions and ethical considerations expected of WGU Teacher Candidates:
    - caring and considerate
    - affirming of diversity and cross-culturally competent
    - a reflective practitioner
    - equitable and fair
    - committed to the belief that all students can learn
    - collaborative
    - technologically proficient
    - professional in leadership

D. WGU Responsibilities

WGU will:

- Select qualified Teacher Candidates who have been prepared with the appropriate educational background, knowledge, skills, and professional disposition to participate in Field Experiences.
- Pay an honorarium per Teacher Candidate, either directly to the Cooperating Teacher or to the District, for the Cooperating Teacher's services. The Cooperating Teacher may also receive professional development hours connected to the successful completion of WGU Cooperating Teacher training.
- Require Teacher Candidates to: (i) complete a background check acceptable to District, and (ii) have a current Tuberculosis (TB) Risk Assessment and/or examination. Upon request, Teacher Candidates will be required to provide documentation to District prior to participating in Field Experience activities.
- Provide opportunities for feedback regarding improvement of WGU Teacher Candidate preparation.

- Provide professional development training to Cooperating Teachers regarding WGU processes and procedures.
- Maintain an online site for support, resources, and training for Cooperating Teachers.
- Facilitate a Cohort Seminar in which Teacher Candidates will participate with a community of peers to receive support during Student Teaching and the final performance assessment.

E. District Responsibilities

District, or school administrator, will:

- Nominate one or more qualified Cooperating Teacher(s) by providing a completed copy of the Student Teacher Acceptance Form to the WGU Field Placement Team.
- Allow the Clinical Supervisor access to the host school and classroom for the specific purpose of observing Teacher Candidates. Clinical supervision may include an in-person site visit, video capture, or synchronous video observation.
- Provide Teacher Candidates with any District policies and procedures to which they are expected to adhere to during the Field Experience and while on District premises.
- Through the involvement of the Cooperating Teacher, participate with the Clinical Supervisor and Teacher Candidates in two evaluations: one mid-way through Student Teaching, and a Final Evaluation at the end of Student Teaching. WGU shall be responsible for the format of the evaluations.
- Provide Teacher Candidates opportunities to observe, assist, tutor, instruct, implement effective teaching strategies, and conduct research, as appropriate, during the Field Experience.
- Provide, when possible, opportunities for Teacher Candidates to use technology to enhance student learning and monitor student progress and growth.
- Provide, when possible, opportunities for Teacher Candidates to experience working with diverse student populations including English Language Learners and Students with Exceptional Learning Needs.
- Require Cooperating Teachers to complete and document training/professional development equivalent to 10 hours that includes: a two-hour orientation to the program curriculum, and eight hours of training in effective supervision approaches such as cognitive coaching, adult learning theory, and current content-specific pedagogy and instructional practices, as required by the California CTC.
- Encourage Cooperating Teachers to participate annually in WGU's Evaluation Form Calibration.
- Encourage administrators and Cooperating Teachers to participate in WGU's Feedback Surveys (offered at the end of the Spring and Fall Cohorts) to report on Teacher Candidate quality and preparation and to provide program feedback to WGU for continuous improvement.

F. Additional Terms

- **Term**. This Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and shall continue for three (3) years from the Effective Date, or until such time as either party gives the other party thirty (30) days advance written notice of its intent to terminate the Agreement; provided, however, that all Teacher Candidates at District as of the date of such notice shall be permitted to complete their Student Teaching.
- **Points of Contact**. Each party shall designate a point of contact between the parties for communication and coordination of Student Teaching. Contact information is set forth following the signature block.
- **Education Records**.
    - District acknowledges that the education records of assigned Teacher Candidates are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and agrees to comply with FERPA and limit access to those employees or agents with a need to know. Pursuant to FERPA, and for the purposes of this Agreement, WGU hereby designates District as a "school official" with a legitimate educational interest in such records.

- WGU shall instruct Teacher Candidates of the necessity of maintaining the confidentiality of all District student records. District shall not grant Teacher Candidates or WGU employees access to individually identifiable student information unless the affected student's parent or guardian has first given written consent using a form approved by District that complies with FERPA and other applicable law.

- **Video Recordings**. During Student Teaching, Teacher Candidates may be required to submit video recordings of their classroom teaching performance (recordings). Such recordings are designed to assist Teacher Candidates in improving their instruction and allow WGU to evaluate Teacher Candidate performance. Although student images may appear in the recordings, the primary focus is on the instruction and not the students or other adults in the classroom. The recordings will not be made public and will be uploaded to a secure site to be scored by WGU evaluators. WGU will instruct Teacher Candidates: (i) on appropriate protocol to submit recordings for evaluation; (ii) that no part of the recordings should be used for any personal or professional purposes outside of performance evaluation; and (iii) that recordings be destroyed once the evaluation is completed. District understands that Teacher Candidates are not employees or agents of WGU and that any further precautions regarding the privacy of District's students should be agreed directly between the District and Teacher Candidates.
- **Right to Accept or Terminate a Placement**. District may refuse to accept for placement, or may terminate the placement, of any Teacher Candidate based upon its good faith determination that the Teacher Candidate is not meeting performance standards or is otherwise deemed unacceptable to District. In such cases, District shall notify WGU in writing and shall state the reasons for such decision.
- **WGU Insurance**. WGU warrants and represents that it provides and maintains general liability insurance with limits of at least $1,000,000 per occurrence and $2,000,000 annual aggregate and, upon District's request, shall provide a certificate of insurance as evidence of coverage. WGU shall maintain, at its sole expense, workers' compensation insurance as required by law.
- **Professional Liability Insurance**. Teacher Candidates will be responsible for procuring and maintaining, at their own expense, professional liability insurance for the duration of the Field Experience with limits of at least $1,000,000 per occurrence and $3,000,000 annual aggregate.
- **Status of Parties**. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to or shall be construed to constitute an agency, employer/employee, partnership, or fiduciary relationship between the parties; and neither party shall have the right or authority or shall hold itself out to have the right or authority to bind the other party, nor shall either party be responsible for the acts or omissions of the other except as provided specifically to the contrary herein.
- **Non-Discrimination**. Both parties agree to fully comply with all applicable non-discrimination laws of District's state and municipality, and of the United States. Both parties will accept, assign, supervise and evaluate qualified Teacher Candidates regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, creed, national origin, age, disability, Vietnam-era veteran status, or any other basis protected by law.
- **Entire Agreement**. This Agreement represents the entire understanding between the parties and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements, and no modification shall be valid unless in writing and signed by both parties. No Teacher Candidate or other third party shall be a beneficiary of or have any right to enforce the terms of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

WGU

By: Stacey Ludwig Johnson

Title: VP, Academic Operations

Point of Contact:

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Phone: 866-889-0132 (Option 1)

For legal notices:
General Counsel
Western Governors University
4001 South 700 East, Suite 700
Salt Lake City, UT 84107-2533

DISTRICT

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Point of Contact:

Email:

Phone:

For legal notices: