Iowa State University
Educator Preparation Program

POLICY: Field Experience Placements in Districts with Previous Relationships

Work Relationship:
Teacher Candidates will not be placed in a school for student teaching in which they have a previously established relationship as a coach, instructor, or sponsor for any extra-curricular or before/after school activity. Teacher Candidates will not be placed in a high school for student teaching in which they have a previously established relationship in the “feeder” middle school as a coach, instructor, or sponsor for any extra-curricular or before/after school activity. This is regardless of whether the position is a paid position or a volunteer position. The one exception to this is Early Childhood Education Teacher Candidates who work in the ISU Lab School. These individuals may be placed in the Lab School for field experiences.

Once a teacher candidate has been placed for student teaching, he/she may volunteer to support an extra-curricular or before/after school activity as a coach, instructor, or sponsor. This can only occur, though, if the cooperating teacher, the supervisor, and the program coordinator have given their consent. If this additional responsibility is perceived to be impacting the teacher candidate’s performance during student teaching, the teacher candidate will be required to stop involvement in the additional activity in order to focus solely on the student teaching experience.

Placement in school where close family member are employed:
Teacher Candidates will not be placed in a school for a field experience (practicum or student teaching) in which a relative or guardian is currently employed.

Teacher Candidates will not be placed in a district for a field experience (practicum or student teaching) in which a close family member or guardian serves as a Central Office Administrator.

Placement in home district:
Teacher Candidates will not be placed for a field experience (practicum or student teaching) in the high school they attended. Teacher Candidates can be place in another high school in the district for a field experience. In extenuating circumstances regarding difficulty in identifying appropriate placements, the clinical experience coordinator and/or the program coordinator may determine that placement in the home high school is necessary.

Teacher Candidates may be placed for a field experience (practicum or student teaching) in the middle school/junior high building they attended. Teacher Candidates will need to have demonstrated strong performance in coursework and previous field experiences. The clinical experience coordinator and/or program coordinator will make the final determination about the appropriateness of such a placement. The information a clinical experience coordinator and/or program coordinator may consider includes, but is not limited to:

- Teacher candidate’s experience as a student in the building.
- Teacher candidate’s current relationship with building administrators and staff.

If the teacher candidate attended a middle school/junior high connected to the high school attended or if a building is a 7-12 or 6-12 building, a teacher candidate will not be placed for a field experience (practicum or student teaching) in the building.
In addition, teacher candidates cannot be placed with any secondary teacher as a cooperating teacher that he/she had as an instructor while in middle school or high school. This is true whether the cooperating teacher is in the building the teacher candidate attended or whether the cooperating teacher is in a different building or district. The one exception to this is teacher candidates in the FCEDS program. These teacher candidates may have a field experience with a teacher they have previously had as an instructor. For all other programs, in extenuating circumstances regarding difficulty in identifying appropriate placements, the clinical experience coordinator and/or the program coordinator may determine that placement in the home high school is necessary.

Teacher Candidates can be placed for a field experience (practicum or student teaching) in the elementary building they attended.

Appeals to this policy: Appeals to this policy can be addressed to the Selection and Retention Subcommittee of the Educator Preparation Coordinating Council.