

RESOLVING PROBLEMS AND DISCONTINUING STUDENT TEACHING

Resolving Problems

It is important that all parties begin with a commitment to open and honest communication. While it may be necessary to have confidential conversations with a university supervisor, problems are difficult to resolve without open communication between all people involved at some point in the process

In the event that there is serious concern about the student teacher's performance, the concern should be 1) discussed with the student, 2) brought to the attention of the university supervisor, 3) documented on the appropriate form, and 4) brought to the attention of the Director of Student Teaching immediately. Any decisions about discontinuing the experience or making re-assignments will be made after reviewing all documentation, consulting all parties involved, and in some cases, conducting direct observations of the student teacher.

Discontinuing a Student Teaching Experience

Occasionally, student teachers make the decision to discontinue a student teaching experience. If a student teacher begins to have doubts about becoming a classroom teacher, it can be helpful to discuss these feelings honestly with the classroom supervising teacher and university supervisor. Before any final decision is made, please schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor or the Director of Student Teaching. **If a student withdraws or discontinues an experience, it is highly unlikely that a new placement can be made during the same semester.** It is extremely important that students explore and discuss feelings thoroughly before making a final decision.

Removal of Student Teachers from a Student Teaching Placement

Unfortunately, there are behaviors and attitudes (dispositions) which can result in a request from a building administrator or a classroom supervising teacher to discontinue a student teaching experience. The following behaviors, on the part of a student teacher, may result in removal from the student teaching assignment:

1. Failure to arrive prepared for assigned responsibilities. Students should have lessons prepared on a daily basis.
2. Use of profanity in the school setting.
3. Unprofessional attitude or inappropriate interactions with students, professionals, or parents.
4. Frequent absences or tardiness.
5. Other behaviors or attitudes, which might negatively impact on K-12 student learning.

In the event that there is serious concern about a student teacher's performance or behavior, the Director of Student Teaching should be notified immediately. **PLEASE SEE THE STUDENT TEACHING HANDBOOK PAGES 2 & 3.**

- If a student teacher is removed from a student teaching placement, they will be required to develop and satisfactorily complete a professional improvement plan before they will be given a new placement.
- This professional development plan will be created collaboratively between the student teacher and the Director of Student Teaching. The Director of Student Teaching may enlist the assistance of the Program Coordinators and/or the Dean of the School of Education in determining if the student teacher's progress is satisfactory, and warrants a new placement. In most cases the new placement will NOT be in the same semester.