

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), on behalf of its Alternative Teacher Certification Program (ATCP), and the Gadsden Independent School District. The purpose of this MOU is to establish the ATCP as an adjunct support system for the training and preparation of one or more ATCP teachers employed by Gadsden I.S.D. during the 2007-2008 school year (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008).

Dr. Darlene Brown, ATCP Director, supported by Dr. Carolyn Awalt, ATCP online program advisor, and the University of Texas TeleCampus System, will provide teacher preparation and training services to support the implementation and delivery of instructional services by identified Program interns (alterns).

Responsibilities of UTEP's ATCP Program:

1. Screen all applicants and verify that alterns employed by a school district are in compliance with federal and state standards;
2. Complete the appropriate State Board of Educator Certification forms for those hired by each school district;
3. Provide course work, advisement and support necessary for alterns to complete their teacher certification program within specified time limits;
4. Communicate program objectives and procedures to employed alterns. Observe alterns in their classroom performance and provide constructive performance suggestions. Maintain effective communication with campus principals;
5. Monitor student progress towards final certification and completion of a masters degree program.

Responsibilities of the Employing School District:

1. Be fully accredited by the Texas Education Agency;
2. Provide the employed ATCP altern with a contract, employee benefits, staff development and curriculum training comparable to any other beginning teacher within the district;
3. Provide a teacher mentor who will implement guidance and support to the altern during his / her initial year of teaching experience;
4. Utilize a payroll deduction authorization process to collect the altern's ATCP Program fee of either (a) \$3000 for on-campus enrollment, or (2) \$3,000 for online students. UTEP will invoice the appropriate fee to the District. District will submit final payment to UTEP by June 30, 2008.
5. Assure the altern placement / teaching assignment is consistent with area of certification being pursued, so that classroom placement, probationary certification and testing for certification examinations coincide;
6. Assist ATCP certification officer in recommending the altern for final teacher certification with SBEC.

Termination / Renewal

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shall be effective for the duration of the 2007-2008 school year. Either party may terminate this MOU upon thirty (30) days written notice. Either party may amend the terms of this MOU upon written mutual agreement. This MOU may not be assigned by either party without the prior written consent of the other party. Nothing contained in the MOU shall be construed as establishing a partnership or joint obligations among the parties hereto. This MOU shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

Signatures

School District Representative, Title

Date

Cynthia Vizcaino Villa, Vice President for Business Affairs

Date