



Superintendent Recommendation for Enrollment and Unified Partnership of Support

_____ is an applicant seeking enrollment at Valdosta State University (VSU) in the
Applicant's Name

Teacher Leadership and/or Educational Leadership Tier I program. He/she will be required to participate in field experiences to complete requirements for initial certification in that field. In order to be admitted to the program, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) requires applicants to be recommended for enrollment by the Superintendent or Official Designee and have at least one year of successful classroom teaching experience as a certified educator.

For the Educational Leadership Tier I certification preparation, candidates complete a field portfolio and complete 250 clock hours. Candidates synthesize, apply, practice, and develop the skills identified in the educational leadership standards through field experience activities embedded in the culminating field experience course. These experiences include observing and working alongside one or more leader mentors at the elementary, middle, high school, and central office levels who are actively employed in a leadership position. In addition to a school-based leader mentor, candidates receive College support through opportunities to interact with program staff and other candidates for reflection, feedback, and support related to their performances in the field.

For Teacher Leadership certification preparation, candidates complete task-based activities across four different grade levels. They receive intensive support by a school-based mentor experienced in instructional leadership. Candidates complete an Individualized Growth Plan (IGP) collaboratively with their Candidate Support Team (candidate, school-based mentor, and VSU supervisor) to set achievement goals, and complete mock portfolio tasks in preparation for the performance-based Teacher Leadership GACE Content test.

The activities of the Teacher Leadership and/or Educational Leadership Tier I candidate are designed to be valuable to the school and school community and can include such activities as working with colleagues to address curriculum issues, improving school climate, researching content problems or innovations, implementing interventions to address problems as well as mentoring, coaching, and providing research-based professional development to other educators.

The school-based mentor reserves the right to approve all work prior to implementation, and candidates will address these activities while enrolled in one to four residency courses (depending on which certification field(s) the candidate is seeking) that may include summer semesters. All activities will be planned and guided cooperatively by the Candidate Support Team and district personnel to ensure quality preparation of the candidate as well as to address continuous improvement initiatives by both the district and program.

By signing your name as Superintendent or Official Designee, you recommend the above-named VSU applicant for enrollment and assure he/she will have the needed district support as described in the above statements and summarized as follows:

- Support the candidate’s decision to pursue the degree.
- Recommend the candidate for participation in these programs.
- Agree to provide the necessary resources for successful completion of the degree requirements, including:
 - time and access to teachers and stakeholder groups so that the candidate can observe, mentor, conduct research, and provide professional learning, among other things.
 - mentoring by a leader who is actively employed in a leadership position in the P-12 school or LUA and who has been trained to be a leader mentor.
 - access to work alongside and/or observe one or more leader mentors at the elementary, middle, high school, and central office levels.

Superintendent or Official Designee’s Name

Superintendent or Official Designee’s Title

Superintendent or Official Designee’s Signature

Date