



MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Robert T. Smith, Provost and V.P. of Academic Affairs

From: Dr. David Slykhuis, Dean *DS*

Date: August 30, 2022

RE: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Thomas County School District, GA

- 1. **PURPOSE** of the MOU - Thomas County School District Partnership Agreement is to renew an agreement.

- 2. **COSTS** associated with MOU _____

- 3. **USG STANDARD:** **Yes** **No**

If No, MOU **varies** from standard by the following:

It is my recommendation that we enter into this MOU.

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Clinical Experiences Collaborative Partnership

Valdosta State University

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of Valdosta State University through its **Dewar College of Education and Human Services (COEHS)** and **Thomas County Schools** located in **Thomasville, Georgia (P-12)** agree to enter into this Partnership for the establishment and maintenance of a mutually-beneficial partnership. The parties agree that while we recognize that each partnership is unique, the following common principles are intended to facilitate all work associated with this Partnership:

Shared purpose in collaborating for improved learning for all stakeholders; focusing on continuous school/system/agency improvement and student achievement.

Reciprocity whereby the school/system/agency and program provider equally benefit from having candidates and program faculty participate in the school/system/agency environment through mutually valuable opportunities such as: 1) preparation of candidates; 2) training, evaluation, and ongoing professional development for all educators; 3) research and inquiry into improving practice; 4) and, other functions as agreed upon by the school/agency and program provider.

P-12 Role and Requirements

The P-12 principal or employer will work with the COEHS to assign VSU students enrolled in an educator preparation program specific P-12 teachers or other school professionals who demonstrate a positive impact on candidates' development and diverse P-12 student learning and development. Mentor educators assigned to educator candidates or interns shall be the best qualified, have received an annual summative performance evaluation rating of proficient/satisfactory or higher for the most recent year of experience, and have a minimum of three (3) years of experience in a teaching, service, or leadership role. These educators shall hold renewable professional-level certification in the content area of the certification sought by the educator candidate.

COEHS Role and Requirements

The COEHS will work with the P-12 principal or employer to design and implement clinical experiences, utilizing various modalities, of sufficient depth, breadth, diversity, coherence, and duration to ensure candidates demonstrate their developing effectiveness and positive impact on diverse P-12 students' learning and development. Emphasis will be placed on experiences that provide active professional practice or demonstration and that include substantive work with P-12 students or P-12 personnel as appropriate for the areas in which the educator candidates are being prepared unless both parties agree that the school placement should involve observation only. As agreed upon by the P-12 mentor educator and university supervisor, the mentor educator will deploy gradually increasing responsibilities to the student as the capacity to carry such responsibilities is demonstrated. The supervision of COEHS educator candidate experiences in the P-12 schools will be performed cooperatively by appropriate members of the school personnel and the VSU educator preparation program personnel. The COEHS will work with the P-12 principal or employer to prepare, evaluate, and support high-quality clinical educators through training, evaluation, and ongoing professional development.

COEHS Students Role and Requirements

COEHS students, also referred to as educator candidates, will present himself/herself only after a confirmation of the placement by both the P-12 personnel and COEHS Partnership Relations Specialist. COEHS students will complete P-12 forms required for completion of a school placement, including a background check if applicable,

and understand that placements will not be assigned until forms are completed and submitted to appropriate individuals in the P-12. COEHS students will maintain COEHS-approved liability insurance for the duration of clinical experiences and hold a Georgia Pre-Service Certificate or other COEHS-approved certification. COEHS students will follow P-12 policies, guidelines, procedures, and curriculum at all times, or otherwise be withdrawn from the clinical experience. COEHS students will also meet attendance requirements set by the P-12 and COEHS, conduct himself/herself as a professional, accept professional feedback, or otherwise be withdrawn from the clinical experience.

The undersigned accept the terms of this Partnership, which will exist for the duration of time that one or more COEHS educator candidates are placed within the P-12, as presented herein for the establishment and maintenance of a mutually beneficial partnership with shared purpose and reciprocity:

<u>Lindsay Thompson</u>	<u>Lindsay Thompson</u>	<u>Director of Digital Learning+Media Services</u>	<u>8/26/22</u>
Administrator, School/System/Agency	Administrator, School/System/Agency	Administrator, School/System/Agency	Date
Print Name	Signature	Title	

<u>Dr. Robert T. Smith</u>	<u>Provost and V.P. of Academic Affairs</u>
Administrator, Valdosta State University	Administrator, Valdosta State University
Print Name	Signature
	Administrator, Valdosta State University
	Title
	Date