



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS AGREEMENT WITH COOPERATING SCHOOL BOARD

This agreement made in Williamsburg, Kentucky this 31st day of March, 2026, between University of the Cumberlands and the Hernando County School District Board of Education. Hereinafter called the "University," and hereinafter called the "Board."

WITNESSETH:

1. The University, under the provision of KRS 161.042 and pursuant to Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) regulations, is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the Board/ Public/Private School for the purpose of providing professional laboratory field and clinical and student teacher experiences for the education profession.
2. The University and the Board/Public/Private Schools accept the joint responsibility to train qualified teachers.
3. The University and the Board/Public/Private Schools agree that all arrangements in reference to this program shall be governed and consistent with policies of the University, as well as those of the Board/Public/Private Schools.
4. A "student teacher" is a teacher education candidate from University of the Cumberlands, having met all eligibility requirements set by the Education Preparation Provider (EPP) at University of the Cumberlands and the Commonwealth of Kentucky for student teaching, who participates in a clinical student teaching experience in a Public/Private School under the supervision of a cooperating teacher (KRS 161.042).
5. A "Cooperating Teacher" means a teacher holding a professional teaching certificate in the requested field and who is employed by the public or private school where the student teaching occurs. Cooperating Teachers contract with University of the Cumberlands to supervise a student teacher for the purposes of fulfilling the student teaching requirement set forth by the Education Professional Standards Board and required for program completion by the approved teacher preparation program (KRS 161.042).
6. As provided in KRS 161.042 (3), the student teachers placed in the Board/Public/Private Schools, shall agree to abide by all policies, rules and regulations of the University and the Board/Public/Private School. Failure to abide by this provision shall be grounds for removal from the program. It shall be the responsibility of the University to inform all prospective student teachers of this provision and to secure agreement from the student teacher.
 - (a) It shall be the responsibility of the University to provide confidentiality training to all student teachers placed in the Board/Public/Private Schools pursuant to this

agreement; such training shall not be less than the confidentiality training provided to newly employed, certified employees in the Board/Public/Private Schools.

- (b) Pursuant to KRS 161.042(4), all student teachers shall be subject to the state and national criminal records checks required of certified employees under the provisions of KRS 160.380. All student teachers shall make application for such criminal records check at cooperating Board/Public/Private/Schools and shall pay such fees as is required of certified hires. The University will require each student teacher to provide a clear FBI background check to the University and to the cooperating Board/Public/Private/School prior to student teaching.
7. The Board, through its administrative staff, shall make assignments of student teachers subject to its limitations and in accordance with its philosophy of teacher education. Nothing in this agreement shall preclude the Board, working in collaboration with the University, from exercising its right to remove from its classrooms student teachers who, in the judgment of the Board/Public/Private Schools staff and in collaboration with the University, have an adverse influence on the welfare of pupils, detract from the total school program, or do not contribute to the advancement of the education profession. The University assumes the responsibility for attempting to place the student teacher in another school system if such is necessary or required. This student teacher agreement is not to be construed as a third party beneficiary contract for the benefit of any student teacher who may be an applicant for student teaching in the Board/Public/Private Schools.
8. The Board shall submit to the University upon request a list of properly qualified and certified teachers from within the Board/Public/Private Schools under whose direct supervision the student teacher will perform their duties of student teaching. In preparing the list, Cooperating Teachers who demonstrate the following should be selected:
- Effective classroom management techniques that promote an environment conducive to learning;
 - Best practices for the delivery of instruction;
 - Mastery of the content knowledge or subject matter being taught;
 - Aptitude and ability to contribute to the mentoring and development of a preservice educator;
 - Usage of multiple forms of assessment to inform instruction; and
 - Creation of learning communities that value and build upon students' diverse backgrounds.
9. Cooperating Teachers shall have the responsibility to provide student teachers placed under their supervision with appropriate experiences outlined in information provided to Cooperating Teachers by University of the Cumberlands.
10. Cooperating Teachers will have met eligibility requirements as outlined in KRS 161.042. Cooperating (P-12 classroom) Teachers, according to 16 KAR 5.040, shall have:
- A valid teaching certificate for each grade and subject taught;

- At least three (3) years of teaching experience as a certified teacher;
 - Training provided by the University and/or the Board/Public/Private Schools in:
 - the basic responsibilities of a cooperating teacher
 - best practice in supporting the student teacher
 - effective assessment of the student teacher
11. Cooperating Teachers shall have the responsibility to provide the student teacher placed under their supervision with proper experience and counsel in planning and presenting effective learning experiences for P-12 students. Cooperating Teachers shall submit formal evaluation documents to the University concerning the progress and accomplishments of the student teacher.
 12. The University shall designate a representative to serve as a liaison between it and the Board/Public/Private Schools. That designee, as a representative of the University shall have access to all Board/Public/Private School staff and schools necessary to properly facilitate communication and relationships between the Board/Public/Private School staff as designated by the Superintendent, Building Administrator, Cooperating Teacher, Student Teacher and other educational personnel.
 13. For direct supervision of the student teacher(s), Cooperating Teacher(s) will be compensated for each student teacher per semester or 14 week assignment. If a student teacher is assigned to more than one Cooperating Teacher in a semester, the amount paid to each teacher shall be prorated on the basis of the number of weeks the student teacher spends in each assignment.
 14. Kentucky Cooperating Teachers who supervise University of the Cumberlands student teachers may be eligible for an additional compensation from the Commonwealth under KRS 161.042.
 15. The University and the Board/Public/Private/School agree not to discriminate in recruitment or employment, development, advancement, and treatment of their employees on the basis of age, color, creed, handicap condition, marital or parental status, national origin, race, sex, veteran status or political opinion or affiliation.
 16. No student shall be denied equal educational opportunities by the University because of his or her age, color, creed, handicap condition, marital status, national origin, race, sex, veteran status or political opinion or affiliation.

It is mutually agreed by and between the parties that the period covered by this agreement is ongoing, and will automatically renew unless either party provides written notice of non-renewal.

In witness whereof, we the undersigned duly authorize representatives of the parties to this agreement have caused the Agreement to be executed as of the date first above written.

By: _____
Superintendent / Board Chairperson

By: Melissa Evans
University of the Cumberland, School of Education Dean

Kelly A. Pogue
Approved as to Form
by WSH Attorney
06/22/2026 06:58 am