

PREFACE

Student teaching is the culmination of the teacher education program. It provides students with the opportunity to integrate theoretical information into classroom application and practice. As student teachers move from novice to a full-time career in education the cooperating teacher plays a crucial role in their development. The time, energy, and professional expertise offered by the cooperating teacher are integral to the student teacher's success. Research indicates that this experience is the single most influential aspect of teacher preparation.

The University is indebted to the public, parochial, and private schools across Iowa, throughout the nation, and in international locations for their willingness to share their classrooms and their professional expertise with our student teachers. This handbook has been designed to facilitate the process by serving as an information and resource guide. The contents has been divided into the following sections: I) Responsibilities, II) General Information, III) Seminar Requirements, IV) Evaluation, V) Strategist I Information, VI) Letters of Recommendation, and VII) Iowa Legislation. In many cases samples of materials that will be utilized during the student teaching experience are included. Student teachers are expected to use the handbook information in conjunction with the elementary student teaching packet of forms.

In 2003 the Iowa legislature passed legislation that impacts students and cooperating teachers. The legislation, Iowa House File 549, included the following text: *"The student teaching experience shall include opportunities for the student teacher to become knowledgeable about the Iowa teaching standards, including a mock evaluation performed by the cooperating teacher. The mock evaluation shall not be used as an assessment tool by the practitioner preparation program."* As a result of this legislative directive, information about the Iowa teaching standards and an evaluation form are included in Section VIII. While Teacher Education Programs are not required to complete the self-assessment tool, we encouraged conversations at the end of the experience between the student teacher and their cooperating teacher that address the Iowa teaching standards.

As of April 2008, as an incentive to educators who work with teacher preparation programs, the Iowa Board of Educational Examiner's (BOEE) approved a process by which teachers may earn one licensure "renewal" credit every five years. The renewal credit is earned by documenting professional activities which relate directly to the training/development of teachers or administrators such as: serving as a cooperating teacher, serving on a teacher education program advisory committee, and/or attending a cooperating teacher workshop. Details and the forms which must be filled out and submitted at the time of licensure renewal by mail are available at the following BOEE website:

<http://www.state.ia.us/boee/forms/StudentTeacherCredit.pdf>

Student teachers are a valuable resource for enhancing K-12 classroom instruction and hopefully you are about to begin very a productive and rewarding experience for all parties involved. We appreciate your cooperation and sincerely welcome your suggestions for the improvement of the program.