

## IMPORTANT IOWA LEGISLATION

**TO:** Cooperating Teachers and Student Teachers

**FROM:** Office of Student Field Experiences

In 2003 the Iowa legislature passed legislation that impacts students and cooperating teachers. This legislation, Iowa House File 549, included the following text:

- (2) *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.*

The Iowa Department of Education has provided the following guidance for implementing this new requirement:

Institutions are encouraged, but not required, to have students complete the mock evaluation form as a self-assessment tool that will be compared with the cooperating teacher's comments and used as the basis for conversation. **Institutions will not be required to collect copies of the completed instrument given that the instruments may not be used for assessment purposes.** The goal of the mock evaluation is to provide student teachers with an insight into their own skills relative to the new teaching standards. [Note: Iowa beginning teachers must be evaluated by a trained evaluator and documentation must be provided to support competence in all of the teaching standards. These requirements do not apply to the student teacher's mock evaluation.]

The Office of Field Experiences is providing a copy of the mock evaluation form to each student teacher and each cooperating teacher to facilitate the student teacher's self-assessment and conversation with his or her cooperating teacher. (See additional pages.) We recommend the mock evaluation be completed between mid-term and the final week of student teaching. After this conversation, *the student teacher keeps both forms* as a possible addition to his or her professional ePortfolio; *they are not to be returned to the Field Experience Office.*

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to fulfill this new student teaching requirement.