

Educator Preparation Provider/Local Education Agency Primary Partnership Agreement

Educator Preparation Provider (EPP)	Tennessee Tech University
Local Education Agency (LEA)	White County
Academic Year of Agreement	2024-2025

EPP Contact/Designee	
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Certification (signatures verify partnership)	
EPP Head Administrator: Dr. Matt Smith	Title: Associate Dean
Signature: 	Date: 09/23/2024

LEA Head Administrator: Kurt Dronebarger	Title: Director of Schools
Signature: 	Date: Sep 23, 2024

**Prompt
1**

Identify goals for recruiting high-quality candidates, including candidates from a broad range of backgrounds and diverse populations, and how evidence will be collected, shared, and used to increase the educator pipeline. *NOTE: Responses should not exceed one page per prompt.*

Recruitment goals and strategies:

- Conduct face to face communication with stakeholders:
- Collaborate to create dual credit and enrollment opportunities – to assist with new state requirement of EPSO (early post-secondary opportunities) units at the secondary level
- Collaborate on Education Fair – recruitment targeting 200+ candidates
- CoED Recruitment and Marketing Coordinator – recruits within P-12 school partnership districts
- EPP presenting to P-12 faculty and students - professional development for current P-12 teachers, host education-specific campus visits for P-12 students (i.e. TAP student groups)
- EPP facilitates a Teacher Education Committee (TEC) that collaborates monthly on curriculum, selection criteria, requirements for clinical educators, partnership agreements, etc. Members of the TEC include EPP and district-level personnel (principals, teachers).
- Faculty presentations/visits to community colleges
- Flyers and posters disseminated at community colleges and P-12 schools targeting diverse populations
- Email messages/print materials delivered to P-12 schools
- Use of digital signage and social media
- EPP advisors meet with prospective students weekly and send handwritten notes to all prospective students after campus visits
- Teacher Education staff attend Upper Cumberland Director's Study Council monthly.

Evidence of recruitment in high-needs areas:

- EPP uses gender, race, geographic location, identifying feeders for diverse students, DOE demographic data via DOE site
- Doubled recruitment area in past 3 years
- Praxis exam preparation – materials/resources, individual and group tutoring, Praxis exam scholarship fund
- edTPA support – hold 4 seminars per concentration (overview, Task 1, Task 2, Task 3), assign coaches based on concentration area

Instructional Leadership (INSL):

- Leadership faculty regularly recruit other aspiring administrators.
- Leadership faculty meets/visits with each candidate and school administrator to collaboratively discuss program expectations.

**Prompt
2**

Describe the strategies and actions in place to co-select clinical educators and collaborate to prepare, evaluate, and support high-quality clinical educators, both provider and school-based, who demonstrate a positive impact on candidates' development and pre-k-12 students. *NOTE: Responses should not exceed one page per prompt.*

Actions:

EPP-Facilitates a Teacher Education Committee (TEC) that collaborates monthly on curriculum, selection criteria, criteria for clinical educators, partnership agreements, etc. Members of the TEC include EPP and district-level personnel (principals, teachers).

INSL-Uses the Lead and Literacy Future Growth Plan (LLFGP) to develop strategies, criteria, and protocols – plan requires INSL candidates and EPP faculty, to engage in a meaningful and sustaining conversation with current P-12 school administrators to align, develop, and integrate literacy strategies, as well as bolster existing and/or initial literacy implementations.

Collaborate to prepare, evaluate, and support high-quality clinical educators:

-EPP organizes candidate requests to send districts. Upon receiving placement requests, P-12 partners provide the EPP with mentor matches. Clinical mentors chosen to work with candidates shall demonstrate necessary teaching and interpersonal skills.

*For field experience/practicum candidates, clinical mentors:

- Have completed at least one evaluation cycle.
- Are certified in area(s) they are teaching.

*For student teachers/residents, clinical mentors:

- Are identified as highly effective.
- Demonstrate necessary teaching and interpersonal skills.
- Have at least 4 years full-time teaching experience.
- Are certified in area(s) they are teaching.
- Received positive evaluations.
- Demonstrated the potential to work collaboratively.

NOTE: Prior to clinical experience, clinical mentors attend virtual orientation addressing expected roles/responsibilities. Faculty, staff, and clinical supervisors attend face-to-face trainings/orientations addressing expected roles/responsibilities. Additionally, candidates attend 4 edTPA seminars to receive guidance from Teacher Education and edTPA coaches and, are expected/required to attend LEA professional development opportunities.

INSL-EPP faculty meet with each INSL candidate and P-12 school administrator to identify a highly effective mentor. This mentor will remain with the candidate throughout the entire program (if mentor does not relocate). The EPP requires the mentor to be the current principal or assistant principal. INSL faculty supervises candidates – no temporary/hourly clinical supervisors are hired.

Clinical mentors observed and provided feedback:

-Candidates assess online clinical mentor/experience site evaluation form. Mentors are evaluated on a Likert scale (i.e. teaching strategies, assessing student learning, classroom/behavior management). The EPP compiles and analyzes site evaluation data each semester to share with mentors and districts.

INSL-Faculty supervise candidates and provide feedback to clinical mentors (P-12 school administration) via the Mentor Assessment and the Completion of Clinical Activities Reported Experiences (CARE) document.

Candidate Development Opportunities:

-Mentors and Supervisors provide open lines of communication, including formal and informal visits/observations to candidates.

INSL Development Opportunities:

-Open lines of communication including formal and informal visits to schools by the EPP to provide support to clinical educators
-45 field experience hours
-Two (2) assessments per semester: 1) Clinical Mentor assessment of candidate: 2) Completion of CARE document by candidate-must be reviewed with the P-2 school administrator/mentor for collaboration and feedback.

**Prompt
3**

Describe the design and implementation of clinical experiences, utilizing various modalities, of sufficient depth, breadth, diversity, coherence, and duration to ensure candidates demonstrate their developing effectiveness and positive impact on pre-k-12 students (For instructional leader programs, ensure how clinical experiences allow opportunities for candidates to practice applications of content knowledge and skills.). *NOTE: Responses should not exceed one page per prompt.*

Design and Implementation of Clinical Experiences:

-50+ P-12 partners to secure placements for clinical experiences. Experiences consist of ethnically/racially and economically diverse students, students with disabilities, and English language learners.
-Clinical experiences align with InTASC and State standards. Clinical experiences provide training and practice directly aligned to categories such as: learner and learning, content knowledge and application, instructional practice, and/or professional responsibility. Candidates are evaluated using the following assessments: 1) Praxis content exams; 2) edTPA; 3) TEAM Rubric/Aspiring Teacher Rubric (ATR); 4) disposition assessments; and 5) summative evaluations.

-Residency/Student teaching candidates complete supplemental placements during the clinical experience. Candidates transition to classroom settings different from the initial placement. Supplemental placements must be completed in candidates' initial licensure or add-on endorsement area. Coordination of supplemental placements is based on collaboration between the candidate and P-12 partner/clinical mentor.

Alignment of Clinical Experiences:

-Candidates pursuing initial licensure at the undergraduate level complete a one-semester clinical experience, known as Residency.

-Candidates pursuing initial license at the graduate level (post-bacc) complete one-semester clinical experience, student teaching.

-Job-embedded candidates - P-12 partners and prospective candidates contact EPP to fill positions via job-embedded contracts. Proof of content knowledge, intent to hire letter from the P-12 partners, etc. are required.

INSL-Candidates complete 45 field experience hours per semester (MA degree = 33 hours, 6 semesters; EdS degree = 30 hours, 5 semesters). Tennessee Instructional Leadership Standards (TILS) and literacy standards must be addressed.

-Candidates are observed/evaluated by INSL faculty member a minimum of once per semester.

Expectations and Implementation of Clinical Experiences:

Expectations are communicated to candidates via course syllabi, course descriptions, general information seminars, information packets, and Teacher Education newsletters.

-Field/Practica experiences - EPP faculty place candidates in early field experiences, identified as practicum placements. Candidates are evaluated by both EPP faculty and P-12 mentors based on the ATR rubric. Field experience hours range from 10-70 hours (varies by course).

-Residency experience - (1 full/formal observation, 1 summative evaluation) and clinical supervisor (1 informal/drop-in visit, 2 formal evaluations). Residency one-semester (15-17 weeks, 5 days per week).

-Student Teaching experience - Clinical mentor (1 full/formal observation, 1 summative evaluation) and clinical supervisor (1 informal/drop-in visit, 2 formal evaluations). Student teaching is one-semester (15-17 weeks, 5 days per week).

-Job-embedded experience - Candidates complete a graduate degree while teaching in P-12 partner schools. Through coursework, candidates share P-12 evaluations with EPP faculty who then provide feedback/guidance. Candidates are observed/evaluated by EPP supervisor during year one, and closely monitored via advisor through experience. Job-embedded experience is a minimum of one-half a school year, approximately 100 days.

INSL-Candidates are evaluated by clinical mentor (1 time per semester via mentor assessment and 1 time per semester via collaboration related to the CARE document) and clinical supervisor (minimum of 1 time per semester via face-to face meeting/visit with clinical mentor and candidate). This evaluation allows discussion regarding program progression, including but not limited to leadership and literacy outcomes.

Prompt
4

Describe the process partners use in the program design, evaluation, and decision-making for continuous improvement. *NOTE: Responses should not exceed one page per prompt.*

Collaboration with P-12 partners to link program design and decision-making to continuous improvement:

- Literacy block (2 courses, 9 hours): candidates learn literacy theory/pedagogy and apply learning in the co-requisite early field experience/practicum course.
- EPP partnered with P-12 schools to create the VISION Lab where candidates use cutting-edge immersive virtual reality to plan, deliver, and assess instruction.
- P-12 partners shared candidates/completers needed more knowledge and experience with the interpretation of assessment data. This led to the EPP creating an Educational Data and Assessment course (4725). The course prepares teacher candidates to interpret data and apply effective assessment and evaluation in the Pre K-12 classroom.
- Field Experience/Practicum (FOED 3810): EPP faculty collaborate with P-12 partners to select appropriate early field experiences where candidates apply theory to practice.
- Professional Seminar I (4875) course requires candidates to provide evidence of discipline specific methods of communicating content through planning, instructing, and assessing.
- Residency (4900) allows additional opportunities for mentor collaboration to link theory and practice. Candidates learn and collaborate with mentors (i.e. classroom management strategies, plan, instruct, assess lessons, edTPA, etc.).
- Meetings with PPI partners for collaboration.
- Regional meeting with CTE directors.

INSL-Candidates develop a plan to address the P-12 partner's goals based on student assessments and evaluation instruments.

Evaluation actions and decision-making for continuous improvement:

- TEC plays an important role in the EPP/P-12 partnership and continuous improvement. Partners from local education agencies (LEAs) constitute 20% of the 33-member committee. The committee reviews the TEP, providing a venue for ongoing decision-making, and proposing recommendations related to changes in admission, curriculum, teacher education, and exit policies. TEC participates in co-construction of instruments, evaluation tools, criteria for selection of mentor teachers, and input into curriculum development. Proposed changes to instruments, evaluation tools, selection criteria, and curriculum are discussed and voted on by TEC.
- Communication between EPP and P-12 personnel to align pedagogy and academic content, as well as clearly present expectations for all members.
- EPP hires adjuncts from P-12 partners to teach education courses.
- P-12 level TEAM observation data provided to the EPP; EPP evaluates and adjusts curriculum as needed based on completers' observation scores from the TEAM rubric indicators.
- EPP request data from clinical educators, clinical supervisors, and teacher candidates via surveys, evaluations, etc. to adjust/revise program design as needed.
- EPP evaluation data (i.e. TEAM/ATR, Praxis, edTPA scores) provided to the LEA; LEA evaluates and communicates thoughts on curriculum revisions/changes as needed.
- Informal communication is obtained on a continuous basis between the EPP (Office of Teacher Education) and LEAs.

INSL-Candidates are required to develop a plan to address the P-12 partner's goals based on student assessments and evaluation instruments.



Prompt 5 Describe how partners will collaborate and make decisions to ensure candidate preparation is inclusive of LEA curricular content and materials. *NOTE: Responses should not exceed one page per prompt.*

- EPP (Teacher Education staff) attends Upper Cumberland Directors' meetings on monthly basis.
- EPP faculty members currently serving on various district committees (i.e. Strategic Planning, etc.)
- EPP facilitates Teacher Education Committee (TEC) that collaborates monthly on curriculum, selection criteria, criteria for clinical educators, partnership agreements, etc. Voting members of the TEC include EPP and district-level personnel (principals, teachers). Extended explanation of TEC in Prompt 4.
- Continuous communication between clinical educator and P-12 personnel to align pedagogy and academic content, as well as clearly present expectations for all members.
- Primary Partnership meetings: LEA shares resources and access to curricula being used by the clinical educators. Teacher candidates are actively engaged in the curricula during the clinical experience (i.e. CKLA, Amplify, etc.)
- EPP hires adjuncts from P-12 partners to teach education courses. This allows teacher candidates to have access, understanding, and implementation of high-quality instructional materials during EPP coursework.
- Current collaboration with Dean's for Impact (DFI) to bolster LEA/PPI partnerships.
- Current collaborator at Tennessee Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (TN-CEEDAR) event to increase capacity to implement plans that sustain and scale up reform effort. Focus: Addressing teacher shortages.
- LEAs visiting EPP classrooms to communicate district expectations.

INSL

- Leadership faculty meets/visits with each candidate and school administrator to collaboratively discuss program expectations.
- INSL faculty members visit candidates' P-12 schools a minimum of one (1) time each semester. The frequency of visits allows faculty to collaborate and retain clinical mentors.
- INSL faculty supervise candidates and provide feedback to clinical mentors (P-12 school administration) via the Mentor Assessment and the CARE document.
- Before exiting the INSL program, INSL faculty meet with candidates and school administrators to evaluate the progress of the candidate via a portfolio system. The faculty assess the portfolio using a rubric, and together the candidate, school administrator, and faculty member will explore possible leadership outcomes.

Primary Partnership Outcomes	As partners work together to develop and implement the primary partnership agreement, describe the desired EPP and LEA short-term and long-term outcomes of the partnership agreement. Include a timeline if applicable.
EPP Conceptual Framework: College of Education prepares effective, engaging professionals through a clinically rich, evidence-based program with a network of mutually beneficial partnerships. EPP Vision: Be an empowering force in education. -EPP and LEA Short-Term and Long-Term Goals: +EPP will provide clinically rich, evidence-based experiences for teacher candidates, including multiple, meaningful, and extended field experiences that equip candidates with strong skills in instruction, assessment, classroom management, and in meeting the academic and social needs of all students. +EPP and LEA will focus efforts to recruit and retain new teachers in high demand endorsement areas through shared responsibility with our partner districts. +EPP will work with LEAs to foster effective, mutually beneficial partnerships to support improved teacher effectiveness and to ensure novice educators enter Tennessee classrooms well prepared to meet the diverse needs of all students. -EPP and LEAs share Values and Beliefs: +Learner and Learning - Teacher candidates understand the importance of the impact of human growth and development on learners, and they foster relationships with P-12 students to motivate, engage, and maximize learning. Candidates recognize that learners bring unique experiences and personal attributes to the classroom and build upon those individual perspectives to set goals and expectations for each student. Candidates also work to nurture individual and collaborative learning within a dynamic, interactive environment that encourages self-motivation. +Content - Using digital media and information technology, candidates make content accessible to learners, which helps to ensure mastery. Candidates make knowledge relevant to P-12 learners via cross-disciplinary skills, and they relate content knowledge to issues of local and global concern. +Instructional Practice - Candidates understand and know how to use multiple methods of assessment to monitor and guide P-12 learner progress and instructional strategies. Candidates develop strategies to help learners set and achieve rigorous goals, drawing upon a combination of contexts including candidate knowledge, learner experiences, and community settings. Candidates' approach instructional strategies with a variety of innovative and impactful practices to foster deep understanding and connect and apply knowledge in relevant ways. +Professional Responsibility - Candidates use feedback and reflection to examine their practices and make adaptations as necessary. Candidates seek opportunities to collaborate with LEA stakeholders such as community members, school professionals, colleagues, and more to foster learner mastery. Candidates participate in ongoing professional learning as well as opportunities to advance the profession.	