

## **Policy guidelines describing the selection of partner P-12 schools and diversity of placement for the student teaching / internship semester**

The P-12 public schools which host the UNC Charlotte undergraduate yearlong interns and student teachers as well as the graduate interns are selected in a number of ways. Over the course of an academic year, about 525 candidates are placed in an average of 32 school systems and approximately 281 schools within those systems (2014-15).

- School system policies are followed for systems which request that all placements are handled by system level representatives. For these systems, the Office of Field Experiences sends placement requests to the designated contact persons with such information as content and/or grade level requirements of the placements, dates for the duration of the placements, and sometimes specific school requests. Based on the number of requests from other institutions, many placements are arranged as requested, and some are confirmed in nearby, equivalent locations.
- UNC Charlotte adheres to the CAEP (Council for Accreditation of Education Preparation) accreditation requirement that all candidates experience diversity in their clinical experiences. A database is maintained which records the placements for every candidate for clinical experiences in coursework and the culminating student teaching experience. Applications (available at the Office of Field Experiences website, <http://ofe.uncc.edu>) completed by candidates for student teaching / graduate internship require that they list former clinical locations to confirm the database information and to help make decisions for placement requests in the school systems which are sent to the system contacts as mentioned above or directly to individual school administrators.
- Applications are submitted through an interview process with the teacher candidate in the Office of Field Experiences. An appointment is made with one of the university supervisors who is licensed in the teaching area of the applicant. Prior clinical placements are reviewed as are possible sites for student teaching. Several possible locations are listed as possibilities prior to the placement request being made for one of the sites.
- UNC Charlotte is in partnership with fourteen Professional Development Schools (PDS). In order for schools to become PDSs, they must align planned activities and goals with the mission of the College of Education, with the national Professional Development School standards and goals, and with the school's Improvement Plan. These sites host larger than typical numbers of candidates for yearlong internships and student teaching. They have school liaisons and university liaisons who work closely with school and university administrators to ensure maximum benefit for the candidates placed in these PDSs during the internship and student teaching semester.

Through the efforts to the professionals at the school and university levels, candidates in the College of Education secure quality diverse placements for clinical work and for the student teaching semester. They experience diverse settings and a variety of curricular modes so that they emerge from their programs of study as well-prepared professionals who are ready to assume the role of a beginning teacher in any school setting.