

Student Teachers

The superintendent, in conformance with direction established in policy by the Board of Directors, recognizes that effective teacher training is a joint responsibility between the school district and teacher training institutions; therefore, the placement of student teachers in the Yakima School District is encouraged.

The superintendent honors those reasonable rules, regulations, and training guidelines of the teacher training institution. The teacher training institution shall be expected to provide liaison personnel who shall work cooperatively throughout the training process with the principal and the supervising teacher.

The superintendent shall coordinate the request for placement with building principals in order that excessive concentrations of student teachers in any given building shall be avoided. Student teachers shall comply with the health examination requirements of the State of Washington and the policies of the district as they apply to certificated staff. The supervising teacher and the principal shall be responsible for the conduct of the student teacher.

A student teacher is defined as a teacher trainee, intern, or an observer. The superintendent or his designee shall determine the number of student teachers that shall be placed in the schools at any time.

September experience for college students interested in teaching as a career will be encouraged by the Yakima School District.

1. Student Teachers Law and Regulation:

The laws of the State of Washington are clear that only a person with a teacher's certificate valid in the State of Washington can be given the responsibility for a group of public school children in a school-sponsored activity. Student teachers do not have teaching certificates and thus cannot be given the responsibility for a school-sponsored activity, such as classroom, playground, and extracurricular, except under the immediate supervision of a certificated teacher who has the legal and immediate responsibility for the children in the particular activity.

The student teaching experience is a learning experience that is to be conducted under the immediate guidance, supervision and evaluation of a fully certificated master teacher. Student teachers should be given an opportunity to experience the various kinds of situations they will face as certificated teachers. These experiences should be under the immediate supervision and guidance of a certificated teacher who has the legal and moral responsibility for the children.

This means that the student teacher should not be permitted to substitute for a regular teacher either in the classroom or on the playground. A certificated teacher should always be in charge of the children and responsible for their care. The certificated supervising teacher may and should delegate to the student teacher as much responsibility for the conduct of the activity as is consistent with good learning and educational practices. However, the teacher should be in charge at all times.

2. Developing and Implementing a Student Teacher Agreement:

- 2.1 The college representative shall present a student teacher agreement to the superintendent for review and approval.
- 2.2 The superintendent or designee shall coordinate the institution's request for placement with principals to determine if placements are possible in the subject areas requested.
- 2.3 The college supervisor shall be notified of placements that can be accepted during the quarter.
- 2.4 Assignment shall be made with the approval of the cooperating staff member and the principal.
- 2.5 A student teacher shall be assigned to a teacher with no less than three (3) years of teaching experience.
- 2.6 A supervising teacher shall not be assigned more than one (1) student teacher per school year.
- 2.7 The supervising teacher shall be responsible for the class and should not delegate responsibilities until the student teacher has displayed the proficiency to accept them.
- 2.8 A student teacher should assume the same conditions of employment as a certificated teacher in terms of length of school day, supervision of co-curricular activities, staff meetings, and inservice training.

Cross References:

(cf.: 5000 – Recruitment and Selection of Staff)

(cf.: 5430 – Volunteers)

Legal References:

RCW 9A.72.085 Unsworn statements, certification

RCW 43.43.830 to 43.43.840 Washington State Criminal Code Records

RCW 74.34 Abuse of vulnerable adults

WAC 446-20-285 Employment--Conviction Records

Adoption Date:

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