

Place all aspects of Teacher Credentialing in KSOEHD (including all placements for student teachers).

CURRENT CHALLENGE:

Placement and Supervision of Final Student Teachers

Students who are working towards a Single Subject Teaching Credential from the Kremen School of Education and Human Development (KSOEHD) are placed at school sites to do Initial and Final student teaching over two semesters. For Initial student teaching, the staff and faculty of KSOEHD locate, contact, and make a placement for each student at a school site, ranging from as far south as Delano, north to Modesto and west to Kettleman City or Los Banos. A supervisor for each student teacher is obtained and assigned by Kremen. This process works very efficiently for Initial student teacher candidates.

However, for the Final student teacher component, placements and supervisors are assigned by the subject specific coordinators (English, Math, Science, Ag, Business, etc.). This places part of the credentialing process outside of the school (KSOEHD) that is responsible for the Credentialing of these teacher candidates in all other aspect of the credentialing program. There is inconsistency in obtaining placements for Single Subject student teachers for Final student teaching, as well as an inconsistency in the acquisition and assignment of supervisors for the Final student teacher candidates. Sometimes there is not a supervisor available from the subject area school. This creates a gap in support for the Final student teacher when they need it most. This is becoming more exacerbated as we develop Partnerships with outlying districts (Porterville, Madera, Clovis, etc.)

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

Place all aspects of Teacher Credentialing in KSOEHD

To promote efficiency, place all aspects of the Teacher Credentialing Program entirely within the Kremen School of Education and Human Development. This includes that all placements for student teachers will be administered by KSOEHD. Existing supervisors for Final student teaching are usually retired or adjunct faculty, who could easily be under the KSOEHD instead of the individual subject area schools. As need demands, KSOEHD can recruit the qualified supervisors needed, and be able to create a pool from which to draw from. The Subject area schools would retain responsibility for Subject Area Competency for teacher candidates, and only need notify Teacher Credentialing when subject matter competency is met. Undoubtedly, a slight reallocation in the funding to KSOEHD for these services will have to be considered, as many supervisors for Final student teachers are paid out of the Subject area schools.

BENEFITS TO FRESNO STATE:

This solution provides improved services to our students who are obtaining a Teaching Credential by streamlining services into one location/school. For the faculty and staff of KSOEHD, the process for placing student teachers at school sites for Final student teaching will become a best practices process, and would provide a smooth path for staff and students to follow. Creating one pool of supervisors for Final student teachers will enable Kremen to recruit, train and maintain a highly qualified level of supervisors to assign to student teachers, which they deserve.

For the subject area schools, this will allow them to focus on the content needs of their students in undergraduate and masters programs, which in turn creates high-quality candidates for the Teacher Credentialing Program.

One of the goals of KSOEHD is to sustain a university work environment that is exemplary in its humanity, ethics, effectiveness, and intellectual vitality. Improving the process of placement and obtaining supervisors for Single Subject Candidates will fit right into this goal. We will be able to demonstrate a more effective commitment to our teacher candidates throughout the credentialing process.

KSOEHD is a nationally recognized and highly awarded program. These changes can only increase our capacity to recruit and serve not only more teacher candidates for the Credential Program at Fresno State, but our ability to recruit quality subject area supervisors for our Final student teacher candidates.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Note: Other universities place all components of Teacher Credentialing in one School. Please understand that I am not implying that any school or department is not doing what they can for students in the area of teacher credentialing. We all are here to serve students. I work with wonderful people, and I love what I do.