



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**SOUTHERN
MISSISSIPPI**

Teacher Candidate Contract

This document is an agreement between The University of Southern Mississippi, (the “University”), and The Jackson County School District, 4700 Colonel Vickrey Road, Vancleave, MS 39565 (the “District”), concerning the placement of teacher candidates in educational field experiences.

The District agrees to accept students from the University upon recommendation of the Director of Educational Field Experiences, the Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences, or the Director of the School of Education. The University has on file a current and clear background check for all students participating in educational field experiences. Upon acceptance, the District agrees to assign a qualified mentor teacher to supervise a teacher candidate. The mentor teacher qualifications are:

- a. must be a full-time employee in a cooperating District;
- b. must hold a standard teaching license;
- c. must have 3 consecutive years of positive teaching evaluations;
- d. must positively impact student learning;
- e. must be teaching in his/her field of licensure;
- f. must have successfully completed the USM Mentor Teacher Workshop; and
- g. must voluntarily accept the responsibilities of a mentor teacher as outlined in the Mentor Teacher Workshop (*i.e.*, observing, conversing, critiquing, working collaboratively, evaluating).

The University will have the option of declining an assigned mentor teacher. Appropriate documentation must accompany any such action. This decision may be made when there is sufficient reason to believe that such assignment would result in poor professional experiences for both the teacher candidate and the mentor teacher. The University offers to all persons equal access to educational, programmatic, and employment opportunities without regard to age, sex, religion, color, national origin, Vietnam-era veteran status, or disability status. These provisions are pursuant to applicable federal and state law and regulations.

The District agrees to complete the Teacher Candidacy Placement Form within a prescribed period of time in order to facilitate the timely placement of all teacher candidates. Should problems arise concerning placement or supervision of teacher candidates, representatives of both parties will attempt to reach satisfactory agreements.

This Contract will be in effect upon the signing by both parties through last day of June, 2027 unless terminated by written request from either party.

It is so agreed as of the date of the last signature below.

DISTRICT:

UNIVERSITY:

By: David Baggett

By: Dr. Lance Nail, Provost
and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Title: Superintendent

Date _____

Date _____

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