

**EDUCATOR LICENSURE
AFFILIATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN**

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

AND

MERIDIAN CUSD 223

THIS EDUCATOR LICENSURE AFFILIATION AGREEMENT, hereinafter "Agreement", made and entered into the 10th day of June, 2026 by and between the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University, hereinafter "University", and Meridian CUSD 223, hereinafter "District".

WHEREAS, the UNIVERSITY conducts a program in Educator Licensure and desires to obtain teaching experience for its candidates, hereinafter "Candidates", enrolled in this curriculum.

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT recognizes the need for and desires to aid in the educational development of such Candidates and is willing to make its employees and premises available for such purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants hereinafter set forth below, the parties agree as follows:

I. UNIVERSITY RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The UNIVERSITY shall provide the basic preparation of the Candidates through classroom instruction and practice and shall provide the educational direction for the placement.
- B. The UNIVERSITY shall be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the individual Candidate's progress.
- C. The UNIVERSITY shall determine the eligibility of Candidates to participate in the DISTRICT'S program. The UNIVERSITY will provide the DISTRICT with a listing of names, dates and hours of assignment and other information specified by the UNIVERSITY or the DISTRICT prior to the commencement of each Candidate's placement.
- D. The UNIVERSITY shall designate a faculty/staff point of contact as a liaison to the DISTRICT to provide consultation regarding Candidate placements, supervision, and periodic review of Candidate progress toward meeting the UNIVERSITY's educational objectives.
- E. The UNIVERSITY shall take all reasonable steps to inform Candidate(s) that they must adhere to the communicated policies, procedures, and standards established by the DISTRICT.
- F. The UNIVERSITY or the DISTRICT may immediately remove any Candidate deemed to be clinically unsafe to students, employees, or others. The party who took the action to remove the Candidate shall notify the other party of said action as soon as possible but in no event later than 48 hours after said removal. The DISTRICT reserves the right to prohibit the return of any such Candidate unless a corrective action plan satisfactory to the DISTRICT has been proposed and its

compliance assured by the UNIVERSITY. DISTRICT further reserves the right to request removal of any Candidate whose conduct is contrary to the DISTRICT's standards of conduct as set forth in its policies and procedures.

- G. Candidate shall be responsible for adhering to established schedules and notifying the DISTRICT and the UNIVERSITY of any absences or necessary schedule changes.
- H. Candidate shall obtain prior written approval of the DISTRICT and the UNIVERSITY before publishing any material relative to the placement.
- I. Candidates shall not be considered employees or agents of the UNIVERSITY.
- J. In return for the assignment of Candidates to the DISTRICT, the UNIVERSITY shall provide to the DISTRICT one one-credit hour instructional tuition waiver for every initial/observational early clinical Candidate; one two-credit hour instructional tuition waiver for every non-initial/interactive early clinical Candidate; one three-credit hour instructional tuition waiver for every eight-week student teaching Candidate; one four-credit hour instructional tuition waiver for every ten-week student teaching Candidate; and one six-credit hour instructional tuition waiver for every 15 or 16 – week student teaching Candidate. Instructional tuition waivers will be issued on a per Candidate basis, not on a per teacher basis. Such instructional tuition waivers are subject to the conditions specified on the instructional tuition waiver and are limited to the usual instructional tuition fee. Recipients of an instructional waiver who enroll in courses with higher instructional tuition fees will have waived only the usual instructional tuition charged for undergraduate or graduate courses, and only the amount indicated by the number of hours waived on the instructional tuition form. Instructional tuition waivers can only be used by a professional employee of the DISTRICT. “Professional employees” shall be defined as those personnel who are employed by the DISTRICT.

II. DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The DISTRICT shall provide educational learning experiences, which are planned, organized and administered by qualified staff in accordance with mutually agreed upon educational objectives and guidelines.
- B. The DISTRICT will promptly process requests for assignments and notify the UNIVERSITY in a timely fashion of its ability to accept such assignments.
- C. The DISTRICT will provide applicable policies and procedures to the UNIVERSITY, to which the Candidates shall be expected to adhere to as a condition to being accepted by the DISTRICT, prior to and during periods of assignment and/or while on DISTRICT premises.
- D. The DISTRICT will assign and designate a point of contact who is to be responsible for planning and administering the program.

- E. The DISTRICT shall facilitate the Candidate's professional growth through educational assignments, and shall provide adequate space, equipment and supplies to meet the objectives of training.
- F. The DISTRICT shall support the Candidate's efforts to complete edTPA if required, and all related program requirements. Support of edTPA requirements by DISTRICT includes, but is not limited to, permitting Candidates to obtain written parental consent, and with proper consent, to video record students and obtain samples of student work during the Candidate's teaching placement at DISTRICT.
- G. Candidates shall perform services only when under the supervision of registered, licensed or certified DISTRICT staff.
- H. The DISTRICT shall be responsible for the submission of required reports in accordance with UNIVERSITY procedures and for informing the UNIVERSITY of significant staff or administrative changes in the education program(s) and cooperating in providing systematic written review of the Candidate performance in the placement.
- I. The DISTRICT will provide Candidates with liability protection as is provided regular employees of the DISTRICT.
- J. In the event that a work stoppage action is taken by some or all of the DISTRICT employees during the time when Candidates are assigned to the DISTRICT, those Candidates will be encouraged to assume the role of neutral persons and to maintain an uninvolved status with respect to a work stoppage in accordance with the following:
 - a. The Candidates shall not be required to participate in picketing or other work stoppage actions.
 - b. The Candidates shall not be required to cross picket lines or to report for work when such action would constitute a breaking of the work stoppage.
 - c. If, in any event, the Candidate participates on either side of the work stoppage, such participation shall be as an individual and not as a UNIVERSITY agent, and the UNIVERSITY disclaims any liability or responsibility for any action or the consequences of any action taken by such Candidate and his or her participation.
 - d. In the event that the work stoppage continues for a week or more, the UNIVERSITY may make arrangements for an extended experience, an alternate placement in another district or an appropriate substitute experience.

III. BOTH - UNIVERSITY AND DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Should any situation arise which may threaten a Candidate's successful completion of the placement, the DISTRICT and the UNIVERSITY will attempt to discuss and reach mutual agreement with the Candidate regarding options for completing, rescheduling, or canceling the placement.
- B. Neither party to this Agreement shall be liable for any negligent or wrongful acts, either of commission or omission, chargeable to the other, unless such liability is imposed by law. This Agreement shall not be construed as seeking either to enlarge or diminish any obligation or duty owed by one party to the other or to a third party.
- C. UNIVERSITY and DISTRICT agree to comply with all applicable federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative

action laws, orders and regulations. UNIVERSITY and DISTRICT shall not engage in unlawful discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, unfavorable discharge from the military, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era, or any other legally protected status.

- D. UNIVERSITY and DISTRICT acknowledge that certain information about UNIVERSITY's Candidates is contained in records maintained by UNIVERSITY and/or FACILITY and that this information is confidential by reason of UNIVERSITY policy and the Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g). Both parties agree to protect these records in accordance with FERPA and UNIVERSITY policy. To the extent permitted by law, nothing contained herein shall be construed as precluding either party from releasing such information to the other so that each can perform its respective responsibilities.
- E. The terms and conditions of the Agreement may be amended by written instrument executed by both parties.
- F. This Agreement shall become effective on June 10, 2026, or from the date of execution of this Agreement, whichever is later, and continue for one year, and shall automatically renew from year to year thereafter for a period not to exceed ten (10) years unless terminated earlier by either party.
- G. Either party shall provide written notice to the other of its intent not to renew this Agreement ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the current term. Either party may terminate this Agreement for breach by providing written notice to the other party of termination. If the breach is not remedied within thirty (30) days, the Agreement may be terminated by giving ten (10) days written notice to the other party. Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraphs, Candidate(s) placed at the DISTRICT at the time notice of termination or non-renewal is given shall be allowed to complete the current placement unless section I(F) above has been invoked by the DISTRICT.
- H. All notices required herein shall be in writing and shall be sent via registered or certified mail return receipt requested or by an overnight courier service to the persons listed below. A notice shall be deemed to have been given when received by the party at the address set forth below.

Notices to the DISTRICT shall be sent to:

Name Dr. Michael Plourde
Title: Superintendent of Schools
Address: 207 West Main Street
 Stillman Vally, IL 61084
Phone: 815-645-2230
Email: mplourde@mail.meridian223.org
District Website: www.meridian223.org

Notices to the UNIVERSITY shall be sent to:

Antoinette Jones, Ed.D., Executive Director
University Office of Educator Licensure and Preparation
TeacherCertification@niu.edu
Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, IL, 60115

This Agreement shall be governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois. This Agreement shall supersede any and all prior agreements between the parties regarding the subject matter hereof. No modification, extension, or waiver of this Agreement or any provision thereof shall be binding upon either the DISTRICT or the UNIVERSITY unless reduced to writing and duly executed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement and represent that they are officially authorized to so execute for their respective parties to the contract.

THE UNIVERSITY

THE DISTRICT

BY: _____

BY: Michael Plouffe

TITLE: Executive Director, Educator Licensure & Prep.

TITLE: Superintendent

DATE: _____

DATE: 6/10/2026