

## STUDENT TEACHING

### Background

The Mt. Lebanon School Board believes that public schools have an obligation to cooperate with institutions of higher education to provide an opportunity for prospective teachers to engage in practice teaching.

While the Board believes that the Mt. Lebanon School District must assume its rightful share and responsibility for this training, it is aware that its prime responsibility is to provide the best possible education for students of the District and that the program of practice teaching should not impede pupil progress and development.

### Definitions

**Student Teacher:** An undergraduate or graduate student who must meet practice teaching requirements in order to qualify as a teacher upon graduation.

**Cooperating Teacher:** A tenured teacher who has a student teacher under his or her guidance and direction.

### Objective:

The objectives of this policy are to:

1. Meet the obligation to provide the opportunity to practice teach in the District for as many student teachers as possible, compatible with the maintenance of an effective school program; and
2. Insure that the number of student teachers doing practice teaching in the District does not exceed the number which may be accommodated without detriment to the quality of education provided District students.

### Policy:

It is the policy of this Board to provide training for student teachers who may be accommodated by utilizing up to ten percent of the regular teaching staff assigned as cooperating teachers. Such student teachers should be distributed equitably among the various schools in the District and should be scheduled in such a way as to avoid excessive exposure of any student or group of students to practice teaching.

Administrative Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Administration to:

1. Determine an acceptable number of student teachers to receive practice teaching in the School District.
2. Select the institutions of higher education from which student teachers will be accepted.
3. Provide an adequate number of cooperating staff teachers for the program and assure proper supervision of practice teachers.
4. Assign student teachers to the schools of the District on a basis which will assure that:
  - a. No District student is exposed to an excessive number of practice teachers during the school year.
  - b. Individual teachers are not continuously burdened by the extra work involved in serving as cooperating teachers.
  - c. The extra work involved in training practice teachers is equitably distributed among the various schools of the District.
5. Ensure student teachers submit current background clearances as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Communication

The Administration shall communicate this policy to:

1. Institutions of higher education which desire to place students in the District for practice teaching training.
2. All Administration personnel involved in implementation of the policy.

Adopted December 21, 1964  
Revised September 26, 1977  
Revised September 16, 2002  
Revised February 18, 2013  
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