

REQUIREMENTS FOR PLACEMENT

Teacher candidates must have diverse experiences/placements. Diverse placements expose you to all types of student learners. You also need placement experiences that represent all the grade levels and/or subject areas you will teach based on initial licensure.

PEC defined diversity as “urban, suburban and rural.” Math, Modern Languages & PHETE have program-level definitions. Exceptions can only be made by your program area coordinator, not OPS.

Plan with the end in mind. Plan ahead before you complete your first placement. Where do you want to student teach? Travelling, if needed, is recommended for Practicum (1 or 3 weeks) rather than during Student Teaching.

Suggest new school division sites to OPS c/o Dr. Ballard. Generally speaking, new partnerships are explored based on a need of at least five teacher candidates for that geographical area.

School divisions self report as urban, suburban or rural. OPS cannot tell them they are being creative or in denial. The full list of partnering school divisions is posted on the OPS website under “ONE STOP OPS” with the classification provided so you can plan ahead.

Some school divisions only place Practicum teacher candidates. Some school divisions only place Student Teachers. Some restrict the grade level or avoid SOL subjects. These distinctions are noted on the list under “ONE STOP OPS” to help you plan ahead.

You cannot be placed at a school where you attended as a student or have an immediate family member currently attending or working. You can still be placed in the division if they have more than one school at the level you need so we can avoid the conflict school.

Do not contact or have others contact the school division about placements. This includes any special requests you might have. If you have a documented disability, you may request reasonable accommodations by contacting the Office of Disability Resources and also OPS c/o Ms. Baldwin.

Some program areas supervise their own teacher candidates for student teaching, which requires placement to be within a certain geographical area. The modified list is provided on the OPS website. These program areas are: English, History/Social Science, Mathematics, Modern Languages (ESL, French, Spanish) and Physical Education & Health.

Contact OPS c/o Ms. Baldwin if you want to discuss your placements. With advance planning, it is not a hardship to meet the program requirements for placement and licensure.