



## Substitute Teaching Initiative Requirement for EDPD 4340

West Texas A&M University has begun a substitute teaching initiative in the classroom management courses that our pre-service teacher candidates take before clinical teaching. This will entail each candidate enrolled in the classroom management course to sign up in a local district of their choice and substitute teach one day per week during the semester they are enrolled in EDPD 4340. All candidates will be required to follow local district policies and procedures concerning substitute teaching including any trainings and background checks required by the district.

The purpose of this initiative is to enhance the classroom management course by including an application based experiential learning component. The professors teaching the classroom management courses will teach specific classroom management strategies and techniques each week in class. Then the candidates will go into the field during a substitute teaching assignment and apply what they have learned in class while substitute teaching. The candidates will return to class the following week to discuss, reflect, and debrief on how these applications went and seek the expertise of their professors in honing these skills.

WTAMU believes that this experience will be mutually beneficial to the local ISDs and the candidates we are preparing for clinical teaching and subsequently their first year of in-service teaching.

### **Benefits for our partnering districts:**

- Increased substitute pool in the Spring semester
- Stronger candidate preparation in the field of classroom management for clinical teaching and first year hires
- Ability to highlight schools and ISDs to candidates seeking a teaching position after graduation

### **Benefits for WTAMU candidates:**

- Ability to apply classroom management techniques in the field under the guidance of an expert
- Entrance into local districts in which the candidate may seek a clinical teaching placement or first year teaching position
- Pay for field-based experience

WTAMU recognizes that this new initiative will require some flexibility, and we are willing to work with our candidates and partnering ISDs on any issues that may arise during this and future semesters. We are requesting partnering ISDs to consider offering the following incentives to WTAMU candidates to substitute teach in your district:

- Expedited training or a Saturday training in the near future as our candidates will need to begin their substitute teaching early in February. If WT candidates could complete the application and training process by February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, this would assist us in beginning this initiative.
- Paid background checks by the ISD for WTAMU candidates who substitute teach in your district
- Pay WTAMU substitutes at the same rate as other substitutes with a bachelor's degree

If your district is unable to offer the incentives, we completely understand and have indicated to the candidates that they may choose any district to substitute teach that will hire them.

If your district would like to be a listed partner in this initiative, please respond to Dr. Beth Garcia: [egarcia@wtamu.edu](mailto:egarcia@wtamu.edu) or 806-651-2609. In your response indicate any incentives your district will offer

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WTAMU candidates who substitute teach and any specifics your district would like passed along to the WTAMU candidates who will be applying for substitute positions in your district.

We thank you for your time and continued support of our candidates as we strive for continuous improvement in our Educator Preparation Program.

Dr. Eddie Henderson  
Dean of the College of Education and Social Sciences

Dr. Janet Hindman  
Department Head

Dr. Beth Garcia  
Director of Teacher Preparation