

## **FAQ's Cooperating Teachers in U-46/February 2012**

There have been questions and concerns about the Cooperating Teacher Training that is now offered to teachers in U-46. Here is information to help clarify some of the Frequently Asked Questions.

### **How do I become a Cooperating Teacher (open my classroom and share my professional expertise with student teachers) in U-46?**

First, complete a Cooperating Teacher Application (download one here <http://www.u-46.org/studentteachers/> ). Next turn it in to Andrea Erickson or Judy Yates in the Teacher Effectiveness Initiatives Department (ESC Room 325). Then log on to Coursewhere <http://www.u-46.org/progro/Courses.htm> and register for one of the Cooperating Teacher Trainings that is being offered.

### **Do I have to take the course if I am working with students in their clinical observations/experience (not full student teaching or field experience teachers)?**

For the Fall of 2012, only teachers that will be hosting full student teaching or field experience teachers are required to take the Cooperating Teacher Training before the fall semester of 2012. Thereafter, teachers that will host any student teacher for any type of experience (observation through full experience) will be required to take the Cooperating Teacher Training. BUT if you want to host a teacher that is not in the full student teaching or field experience, you still need to complete the Cooperating Teacher Application so your name is in the system. If your name is not in the system, you will not be able to support a student teacher in your classroom (observation through full experience), beginning Fall 2012.

### **I am a certified staff member, but I am not a traditional classroom teacher. Do I need to complete the Cooperating Teacher Training?**

For the Fall of 2012, refer to the following chart. All areas of specialization will be required within the next year. Notification will be sent out when the course is offered for all.

Area of Specialization	CT Training Required
Teacher	YES
Itinerant	YES
Instructional Coach/ Instructional Specialist	YES
School Psychologist	Not at this time
Speech Language Pathologist	Not at this time
School Counselor	Not at this time
Library/Media Specialist	YES
Diagnostician	YES
School Nurse	Not at this time
School Social Worker	Not at this time

**What if I want to support a full student teaching or field experience teacher during the 2012-2013 school year, but cannot take one of the courses currently scheduled?**

Try to attend one of the already scheduled courses (they are already on the calendar and in place), and look for information about additional courses that may be planned later in the spring or summer.

**Why is this course offered at such an 'inconvenient' time?**

It is recognized that after a day of teaching, 4 hours is a long time to be engaged in a course. The fact of the matter is, those were the times available for the space needed. A variety of days throughout the week and times of the month were selected to try to accommodate differing schedules. It is also recognized that the time covers the dinner hour. The ETA (and hopefully some of our partnership universities) has agreed to provide food for those participating in the course.

**I have hosted student teachers before. Why do I have to take this course?**

The requirement of this course came from the needs expressed by our university partners and U-46 teachers that work with our partners during a thrice yearly forum called Interconnect. The course is a culmination of a year-long project that aligns values and beliefs of all organizations involved. The course also offers a common knowledge base for cooperating teachers, providing the opportunity for consistency of the student teaching experience for those we host in our classrooms. The expectations of the teacher are constantly evolving, as are the experiences of student teachers. The course is designed to support the evolving roles and needs of teachers supporting student teachers.