Professional Development Schools

A Professional Development School is one in which the faculty from both the school and the university work collaboratively, over time, with the goal of improving teaching and learning through:

1. upgrading education of pre-service teachers
2. providing professional development for experienced teachers
3. conducting field-based research
4. providing contemporary experience in the schools for university faculty

Professional Development Schools are members of partnerships with the university and they benefit from the many valuable educational resources provided by NIU.

Participating schools and districts are privileged to be learning sites for NIU education majors – the next generation of classroom teachers. Please join us in welcoming these NIU teacher candidates.

Northern Illinois University was established in 1895 in DeKalb. The university offers degrees from more than 70 academic programs in seven colleges and has an enrollment of over 24,000 students.

For more information about NIU, please call the Admissions Office at (815) 753-0446 or log on to www.admissions.niu.edu.

Schools in the following districts have partnerships with NIU:
- Batavia CUSD #101
- Belvidere CUSD #100
- Cambridge Lakes Charter School
- Central CUSD #301
- CHSD Dist. #99
- CSD #158
- Darien Dist. #61
- DeKalb CUSD #428
- Genoa-Kingston CUSD #424
- Harlem CUSD #122
- Indian Prairie #204
- Kaneland CUSD #302
- Richland Dist. #88A
- Rochelle Dist. #231
- Rockford Pubic Schools #205
- School District U-46 (Elgin)
- Spectrum Progressive School
- St. Charles CUSD #303
- Sycamore CUSD #427
- West Chicago Dist. #33

Why is a Northern Illinois University teacher candidate in your child’s classroom?

School-University Partnerships

Northern Illinois University Office of Teacher Certification

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Northern Illinois University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution.
Your child’s school and teacher candidates from Northern Illinois University have teamed up to bring “more” to the classrooms.

More what?

- **More energy!** Teacher candidates are excited to begin their teaching careers and that enthusiasm is contagious!
- **More Engagement!** Teacher candidates and your child’s teacher collaborate to develop engaging and innovative instructional opportunities for learning.
- **More ideas!** Classroom teachers, NIU faculty, and teacher candidates share best practices on teaching and learning.

Teacher Candidates

NIU teacher candidates develop their teaching skills under the direct supervision of classroom teachers and NIU faculty.

During their senior year, teacher candidates will participate in an extended-clinical experience that puts them in the same classroom that they will be in the following semester. This “pre-student teaching” opportunity may also be referred to as “a clinical experience”, which is the university’s term for this academic experience.

“Student teaching” is the teacher candidate’s opportunity to continue working in the same building with the same cooperating teacher to continue to gain valuable experience that will help the candidate to become a successful teacher.

If you have questions or comments about NIU teacher candidates, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or the principal.

Offices at NIU:

- Partnership Office
  (815) 753-6994
- University Office of Teacher Certification
  (815) 753-0846

As a graduate of the College of Education at NIU, I feel fully prepared and confident to take over my very own classroom. I was fortunate enough to find a position teaching 2nd grade at one of the schools where I completed one of my clinical experiences. I look forward to a continued partnership with NIU and, perhaps, taking in a Northern student myself one day! NIU’s teacher preparation program is exceptional. I am proud to have been a part of it, and I am proud to call myself a Huskie!

Daniel Guerrero, ELED 2012