

200 STUDENT TEACHER COMMITMENT CONTRACT

I, the undersigned, understand that I have been accepted in the student teaching program of the Teacher Preparation Program, a field-based teacher education program authorized by A&M-Texarkana, State Board for Educator Certification, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. I also understand that to participate in this program I must:

1. COMMIT that, during my student teaching, I will adhere to the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices of Texas Teachers.
2. COMMIT full participation in the Teacher Preparation Program field-based program.
3. COMMIT that, during my student teaching, I will be with my ILT in the classroom, in workshops and/or seminars all day Monday through Friday and will follow the time schedule of the ISD.
4. COMMIT to the understanding that, during my student teaching, I am not to receive compensation except for extenuating circumstances and with the permission of my ILT, ISD, and A&M-Texarkana faculty.
5. COMMIT to maintaining all of the academic requirements of A&M-Texarkana relative to teacher education. I understand that, in order to be approved to begin my student teaching, I must (a) be approved by the A&M-Texarkana faculty in my department, and (b) meet the minimum requirement for acceptance to student teaching: i.e., admission to teacher education; 2.8 GPA and no grades lower than C in my area of specialization, in all of my professional education courses and in all reading courses; and any other prerequisites to the student teaching program.
6. COMMIT to Professionalism. That is, I will exhibit the behaviors of a professional educator who is committed to teaching, to excellence, to the learners in the classroom, and to one's own personal and professional growth. These behaviors include but are not limited to: appropriate dress; completing assigned work on time and of the best possible quality; being prompt with appointments and other commitments; keeping agreements with ILT and A&M-Texarkana faculty; maintaining a positive attitude; demonstrating to others a true desire to be in the classroom, keeping information confidential, maintaining a high attendance record with minimal absences (A&M-Texarkana policy on excused absences will be followed-all other absences will be made up); soliciting constructive criticism and accepting it gracefully; and always being prepared.
7. COMMIT to full partnership with my Instructional Leadership Team, to seek the cooperating teachers' advice, to earn their respect, to participate with them in their required and voluntary duties and activities, to be a decision-maker with them, and to assist my ILT in their efforts to provide the best education to their learners.

8. COMMIT, from the first day of school, to shed my identity as a student and to begin an identity as a teacher. I commit to think like a teacher, not a student. I will think of myself as a beginning teacher, be an initiator in my classroom, always look for ways to help children learn whether I am in charge or not, continually seek information from my ILT members and A&M-*Texarkana* faculty, find out as much as I can about how teachers think and make decisions, and work from the beginning to become an excellent teacher.
9. COMMIT to self-learning and self-improvement, i.e., I will ask questions, seek information, be reflective, be open to criticism, keep my defenses down, learn to recognize and state my own strengths as well as weaknesses, and recognize that I will not suddenly be effective but that I will continually be in the process of “becoming” more and more effective.
10. COMMIT to the belief that all children can learn. I welcome the opportunity to learn to teach children of various diversities and abilities, and I believe that all participants in my program (including K-12 teachers, A&M-*Texarkana* faculty, field-based students, student teachers, and children) will be both teachers and learners.
11. COMMIT to the understanding that the program I am in is developmental, i.e. not static but evolving, changing, and improving, that it often requires evaluation and modification, that the roles of my professors and teachers may change from time to time, and that I will not only demonstrate flexibility but I will contribute information when I can that might help to improve the program.
12. COMMIT to follow the rules and regulations of the program, to participate in the evaluation of the program, and to provide information and data important to the evaluation process. I agree to be audio and/or videotaped, to be photographed, to be interviewed, to participate in studies related to the education of teachers, and to have my good work exhibited to other professional educators.
13. COMMIT to membership in one of the professional teacher organizations and obtain liability insurance.

Electronics Signature on Form 310 Student Teacher Data Form accepted in lieu of below.

_____ Date _____
Student Teacher's Signature

Student Teacher's Printed Name _____