

## Northwestern University School Partnership Network

### Overview

The Northwestern University School Partnership is a network of local schools and educators engaged in the important process of developing the next generation of teachers. Working together, the University and Schools provide opportunities for new teachers to learn the art and craft of teaching. It also connects mentor teachers and administrators to world-class programs, faculty members, and opportunities at Northwestern University. This collaboration not only benefits novice teachers but also experienced teachers, their school community, and thousands of students.

### The Partners

**Northwestern University** is located in Evanston, Illinois and is consistently ranked as one of the premier research institutions of higher education in the world. By combining innovative teaching and pioneering research in a highly collaborative environment, Northwestern University provides its students and faculty exceptional opportunities for intellectual, personal, and professional growth. The School of Education and Social Policy is known as “the small school that thinks big” about issues of education, learning, and community. One way this is accomplished is through the preparation of teachers at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as in teacher leadership. The strengths of this small program include individual attention, development of a close-knit cohort of students, instructors who are both researchers and practitioners, a focus on inquiry and reflection, and authentic experiences in a range of school settings and contexts.

The **Chicago area** boasts some of the best elementary, middle, and high schools in the country across a range of school and community contexts. Teachers and administrators in these schools meet the highest standards of teaching and learning, serving as important mentors and role models to novice teachers. Their dedication to young people, the community, and the school is evident in their enthusiasm and daily practice. Northwestern University School Partners are committed to new teacher preparation, field experiences, and mentoring, regularly offering student teaching placements for Northwestern University teacher candidates, collaborating with Northwestern University faculty on teaching standards, and serving on K-12 advisory boards and committees.

## **Benefits to Northwestern University:**

- Access to teachers who serve as mentors for teacher candidates in Practicum (Fall) and Student Teaching (Winter). These teachers attend professional development workshops to learn about teacher preparation at Northwestern University so they can extend what candidates are learning on campus.
- Access to schools that provide support to mentors and candidates during field experiences in the school. This includes working with University staff to identify strong mentors, as well as engage candidates in the life of the school. Schools also help candidates collect the videos and artifacts necessary for licensure and degree completion.
- Connection to teachers and administrators who serve as consultants and advisers about teacher and leader development at Northwestern University.

## **Benefits to School Partners:**

- Teachers and administrators have the opportunity to train and develop new teachers and renew the teaching profession.
- Serving as a Mentor is incredible professional development for experienced teachers. Mentors attend workshops on teacher preparation and the latest trends in teaching and learning.
- Mentor teachers receive CPDU's from Northwestern University towards ISBE licensure renewal for working with a Student Teacher and attending workshops.
- Mentor teachers receive a stipend and a Northwestern University recognition gift for hosting a candidate for Practicum and Student Teaching.
- School Partners are regularly updated and invited to special speakers, workshops, and programs on the Northwestern University campus.
- Opportunities to publish articles and/or blogs on the interactive website.
- Teachers can attend available summer classes at Northwestern University through the School of Professional Studies at reduced tuition from the standard Northwestern University tuition cost.
- Professional educators can attend Advanced Placement Summer Institutes and/or the Summer Writing Conference through the School of Professional Studies.
- Partner with Northwestern University for research projects and professional development.
- Opportunity for schools to observe teacher candidates for possible vacancies at their schools.