

Where Will I Be Placed?

In the context of student teaching, while a variety of issues influence the school and teacher assignment process and we cannot guarantee any individual student teacher placement, understanding your specific interests and personal professional needs will help us to better match students, schools, and cooperating teachers. A further understanding of the student teacher application and placement process, described below, will help you in this effort.

Note: Many suburban school districts will not accept dual placements (e.g., special education *and* elementary education). Therefore, please choose your first placement request wisely.

Placing Student Teachers

Though the criteria above are important to the student teacher placement and program improvement processes, they are not the only factors at play. Schools and districts play an active role in the determining which students are assigned to which schools. Based on your input and the Field Placement Office priorities, the Field Placements Coordinator in the School of Education makes a formal request to the individual school district of the recommended school. The district, based on its own criteria, then determines whether or not to pursue the request at the school level. The principal, based on his/her own criteria and the ability to meet the request (e.g. availability of a master teacher who meets the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Education), works with individual teachers at the school to determine which candidates, if any, will be selected to student teach at the school and with which teachers.

Students seeking a placement outside the School District of Philadelphia should understand that, by agreement with the districts, the College sends ALL such applications to the district offices only. (You may not contact schools on your own initiative. You must follow the application procedures established between the School of Education and the surrounding districts.)

It is also important to note that some schools are requested by far more potential student teachers, both here at Drexel and from the nearly 20 other teacher preparation programs in the region, than they can accommodate.

Timeline for Notification

Schools and districts vary in the amount of time they take to consider individual student teacher applications and respond to our placement requests. While the School of Education is working to ensure prompt responses and will be in regular contact during the placement process, responses, both acceptances and denials, often take more time than anticipated.

The School of Education, particularly through the Urban Education Collaborative, is developing relationships with several school districts in the area and beyond to improve and streamline this process, but it is still complicated -- especially with districts outside of Philadelphia. For this reason, we recommended student teacher placements are considered tentative until final confirmation by the school site and a specific cooperating teacher is named. Students with particularly complicated situations or specific needs or concerns also have opportunities to discuss their placements within specific time limits; however, ***students may not arrange for a placement on their own.***

You will be notified via e-mail as soon as we confirm that you are eligible to student teach and we have confirmation of your placement.

What if I'm Not Happy With My Placement?

Requesting a change in school placement AFTER we have sent your application to a school on your behalf is strongly discouraged. Make your choices carefully and provide as much information as you can on your initial application.

If you have extraordinary circumstances and need to request for a change student teaching placement application after it has been submitted, please consult with the Field Placement Office immediately.

To ensure timely and appropriate placements, students should regularly check e-mail and quickly respond to any requests from the Field Placement Office.

And please remember, ***Drexel University cannot guarantee you a student teaching placement in a particular school of your choice.***