Kutztown University  
College of Education  
Candidate’s Statement of Commitment regarding Dispositions

It is the responsibility of the College of Education, in collaboration with the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, to successfully prepare candidates to become effective teachers. The initial licensure program requires candidates to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions outlined in the conceptual framework of the College of Education as they align with the expected behaviors of beginning teachers. Each candidate will be evaluated on these dispositions by faculty and school personnel and provided with feedback to assist with their progress.

Dispositions are defined as how values, commitments, and professional ethics manifest themselves in professional practice. Dispositions are guided by beliefs and attitudes related to values such as caring, fairness, honesty, responsibility, and social justice (NCATE, 2001). The following dispositions are expected of teacher education candidates in the university classroom and in the schools.

**COMMUNICATION** - the candidate communicates appropriately
- engages in positive dialogue to resolve problems
- encourages participation with all group members/avoids dominating conversations
- maintains confidentiality in all interactions
- speaks professionally to and about others
- listens actively (body language, eye contact, asking relevant questions)

**INTERPERSONAL SKILLS** - the candidate develops, maintains and models appropriate relationships
- works as a team member to build consensus
- shares responsibility of the group equitably
- listens openly before stating opinions
- manages personal emotions in conflict situations
- seeks out problem resolution with appropriate parties
- lists and demonstrate ways to anticipate, prevent and solve problems
- takes responsibility and ownership for professional conduct (e.g. timeliness, professional dress and demeanor)

**REFLECTIVE WISDOM** - the candidate demonstrates commitment to personal and professional growth as a standard of excellence
- accepts constructive feedback and modifies personal conduct as needed, as part of the learning and professional growth process
- exhibits integrity and ethical behavior as required by PA code of Professional Practices and Conduct
- evaluates self on progress and sets realistic goals for self-improvement
- reflects upon strengths and weaknesses of his or her own work and offers alternative actions if necessary

**CULTURAL AWARENESS** - the candidate demonstrates civility and respect for diversity
- exhibits fair, consistent, and equitable treatment of all
- adjusts practice to ensure fairness and success for all students
- advocates on behalf of all learners and families
- promotes a positive learning environment that values and fosters respect for all learners
CRITICAL THINKING - the candidate is able to think critically and effectively solve problems
  • articulates and demonstrates effective procedures for problem solving
  • demonstrates ability to discuss a problem from the perspective of stakeholders
  • identifies and utilizes appropriate policies, procedures and chain of authority to solve problems

SCHOLARLY INQUIRY - the candidate demonstrates a commitment to personal and academic growth as a standard of excellence
  • participates in the profession
  • engages in on-going professional learning to improve practice

I have read the dispositions and indicators above. I believe that appropriate dispositions are integral to being an effective, professional educator. I am committed to growing and demonstrating excellence in these dispositions. I understand that in addition to academic performance in accord with the requirements of the College of Education, my success and progress in the teacher education program depends upon successful demonstration of these dispositions.

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Student Name  Signature  Date