

CLINICAL/STUDENT TEACHING COMMITMENT CONTRACT
Alternative Certification Program
Texas A&M University-Commerce

I, the undersigned, agree to the following commitments:

1. **I COMMIT** to full participation in the 16-week, semester long clinical/student teaching assignment. I understand that I must be chosen to complete my assignment in an ISD. I understand that if I'm not chosen, I may or may not be given a reason and I may not be able to complete my certification through Texas A&M University-Commerce. If chosen, I agree to follow the ISD calendar for the fall or spring semester. I will follow the teacher's schedule for reporting to and leaving work.

2. **I COMMIT** to the following schedule:

Spring/Fall 20__ Start with the ISD schedule and end when University semester ends with a minimum of 16-weeks completed.

Number of days—5 days a week for a total of 80 days.

3. **I COMMIT** to the understanding that, during my clinical/student teaching semester, I will not expect any compensation from Texas A&M University-Commerce or my ISD for any teaching I do, including substitute teaching, except for extenuating circumstances.

4. **I 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 in the best possible quality; being prompt with appointments and other commitments; keeping agreements with my Instructional Leadership Team (university field supervisor, mentor/s, and principal) and Texas A&M University-Commerce faculty; maintaining a positive attitude; demonstrating to others a true desire to be there; staying busy and never being in a position of sitting without anything to do; avoiding eating and drinking in classrooms, maintaining a high attendance record with no unexcused absences and no more than 3 excused absences (all other absences will be made up); soliciting constructive criticism and accepting it gracefully; and always being prepared.

5. **I COMMIT** to the understanding that the school district in which I am a clinical/student teacher will require data from me for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information. I am also aware that all Texas public schools are required by law to obtain criminal history record information on all applicants for employment. My early screening will provide the school district with this information. I may not be eligible for student teaching and/or certification if I have a criminal history.

6. **I COMMIT** to full partnership with my Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), to be TEACHABLE, to seek their mentorship, 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.

7. **I COMMIT**, from the first day of school, to shed my identity as a student and to begin an identity as a teacher. I will think like a teacher, not a student. I will see myself as a beginning teacher, be an initiator in my classroom, always look for ways to help children learn whether or not I am in charge, continually seek information from my ILT members and A&M-COMMERCE faculty, find out as much as I can about how teachers think and make decisions, and work from the beginning to become "the best one can be."

8. **I COMMIT** to self-learning and self-improvement, i.e., I will be teachable, 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 a process of "becoming" more and more effective.

9. **I COMMIT** to the belief that all children can learn, I welcome the opportunity to learn to teach children of various diversities and handicapping conditions, and I believe that all participants in my program (including K-12 teachers, administrators, A&M-COMMERCE faculty, and children) will be both teachers and learners.

10. **I COMMIT** to the understanding that becoming a teacher is developmental and focuses on continual improvement, i.e., not static but evolving, changing and refining, 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.

11. **I COMMIT** to follow the rules and regulations of the program (i.e. pay internship fee, enroll in coursework, etc.), to participate in the evaluation of the program, and to provide information and data important to the evaluation process. I agree to being interviewed, to participate in studies related to the training of teachers and teacher education, and to have my good work exhibited to other professional educators and/or at classes, conferences and workshops.

12. **I COMMIT** to the understanding that student membership in one of the professional teacher organizations that includes, as part of the membership fee, professional educator liability insurance is highly recommended. In the absence of such a membership, proof that I have liability insurance through a private insurance carrier is also an option, which is available and recommended.

13. **I UNDERSTAND** that I must have completed EDCI 514 and at least three other certification courses and be "highly qualified" prior to beginning my student teaching internship.

14. **I RELEASE** my file to be shared between the university and school district without qualification or restrictions.

15. **I CONFER** that I have completed, am currently enrolled or are registered for the following: EDCI 514, EDCI 517, EDCI 519, RDG 516, ETEC 524 or ECE 566, and EDCI 515.

Candidate Signature

CWID

Date

Print Name