



UNK Network of Partner Schools

District Information

District: _____

District Address: _____

District Phone Number: _____

District Contact: _____

Overview

The University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) College of Education invites schools to join the Network of Partner Schools. This partnership reflects the Mission and Values of the Department of Teacher Education. By completing this form, your school affirms its commitment to a collaborative partnership that:

1. Improves PK–16 student learning and achievement.
2. Prepares future educators through authentic, high-quality field experiences.
3. Supports the professional growth of practicing teachers and administrators.
4. Engages in collaborative inquiry and innovation projects with UNK faculty and staff.

Mission

The Department of Teacher Education prepares all students through globally minded, student-centered educators with high-quality, innovative coursework and meaningful professional learning. Grounded in evidence-based practices and supported by technology, we collaborate with strong community partners to provide authentic, experiential learning. We foster a flexible culture of transparency and open communication, empowering educators to think critically, respond to diverse educational needs, and lead with purpose in shaping the future of education.

Our Values

- Student-Centered Learning – We place learners at the heart of our work, fostering environments where every student can thrive.
- Global Perspective – We embrace diversity, cultural awareness, and international mindedness in preparing educators for a connected world.
- Innovation & Excellence – We commit to high-quality, evidence-based practices and continuously explore new approaches to teaching and learning.
- Collaboration & Partnership – We engage with strong community partners to create authentic, experiential opportunities that enrich education.
- Transparency & Communication – We cultivate an open, flexible culture built on honesty, respect, and shared understanding.
- Critical Thinking & Leadership – We empower educators to think deeply, respond to diverse needs, and lead with purpose in shaping the future of education.

Partnership Commitments

Leadership Participation:

Designees will participate in Partner School activities when needed (e.g., advisory councils, seminars, focus groups, and in-service opportunities).

Support for High Quality Field Experiences and Student Teaching:

With UNK providing training and support, your school/district agrees to provide qualified cooperating or mentor teachers for field experiences, practicum, and/or student teaching experiences.

Collaboration with UNK Teacher Education:

Partner Schools may be asked to support two-way recruitment efforts to address the teacher shortage in Central Nebraska (e.g., sponsoring a week at the COE, UNK visits to your school building, collaborative grants).

Commitment to ongoing partnership around teacher professional learning:

Select educators who work in a Partner School will be invited to participate in or contribute to professional learning through UNK offered virtually and/or in person, including ongoing degree programs and smaller skill-building (e.g., MTSS, trauma-informed instruction, foundations of early literacy, etc...).

Signature of Agreement

Administrator's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____ Email: _____

UNK Teacher Education Department Chair Name: _____

UNK Teacher Education Department Chair Signature: _____

Date Received: _____