

Valley City State University
Rural Partner School Benefit Program
With Valley City Public Schools

Valley City Public Schools has a partnership with Valley City State University and the Office of Graduate Studies, School of Education for the 2019-2021 academic school year. The description and goals of this partnership have been detailed in a memorandum of understanding between both institutions. (See Appendix A)

The partnership within the Rural Partner School Benefit Program provides Valley City Public Schools to select 4 individual educators in the district and provide half tuition waivers for the pursuit of a Masters of Education, Master of Arts in Teaching, or coursework towards a content area qualification. An application process has been established by Valley City Public Schools (See Appendix B) for this program. A selection committee will be formed to review applications and select the 4 individuals receiving half tuition waivers based upon a scoring rubric established by Valley City Public Schools. The selection committee will consist of the following representatives: School Board Member, Superintendent, Principal, 2 Teachers-Secondary/Elementary.

The 4 individuals selected by Valley City Public Schools for half tuition waivers will be required to successfully make application to the VCSU Graduate School and sign a Tuition Waiver form. In addition the individual will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding with Valley City Public Schools and fulfill the following responsibilities per the MOU: (1) Commitment to VCPS for 3 academic years beyond the completion of the degree/coursework, (2) Complete 15 hours of an internship experience in coordination with VCSU and VCPS, (3) Serve as one of the school liaison with VCSU to help facilitate partnership-related activities.

**Memorandum of Understanding
RURAL PARTNER SCHOOL BENEFIT PROGRAM**

This memorandum of understanding is entered between Valley City State University Office of Graduate Studies, School of Education and Valley City Public Schools for the 2019-2021 academic years.

Description of the Partnership Program

The program is designed to create a dynamic and sustained university-school district partnership that will promote collaboration between the University and partner schools with a focus on student learning and educator preparation involving school district and university students and faculty.

Goals

The Rural Partner School benefit program will help meet the demand for highly qualified teachers in rural schools at the elementary, middle and high school levels and support practicing educators, and educator preparation programs to improve professional learning for district and university faculty and teacher candidates.

University

- Maintain a commitment to partner districts for the period of the MOA.
- Collaborate to develop a rural school placement program for VCSU graduates.
- Provide half tuition waivers for up to 4 individuals at each partner district to support advanced degree training for Master of Education, Master of Arts in Teaching or Content Area Qualifications.
- Provide opportunities to meet with teacher candidates during key transition points in the program to conduct mock interviews, panel discussions and present as guest speakers.
- Provide graduate professional development credits for partner school personnel who participate in collaborative activities.
- Provide opportunities for partner school students to take dual credit coursework.
- Collaborate to determine extent to which the Partnership Program is working and report annually to both university and school stakeholders.

Rural Partner School

- Maintain a district-wide commitment to the university for the period of the MOA (i.e. Dual-Credit, Practicum, Field-Experiences, Student Teaching, etc..)
- Educate entire district on the goals and initiatives of the partnership and opportunities to be involved.
- Provide an identified School Liaison (teacher or school leader) to help facilitate partnership-related activities.
- Collaborate to develop a rural school placement program for VCSU graduates.
- Support, supervise, and assess preservice teachers in clinical experiences throughout the educator preparation program.
- Collaborate to determine extent to which the Partnership Program is working and report annually to both university and district stakeholders.