

APPENDIX N

MONTANA GUIDELINES FOR PLACING TEACHER CANDIDATES

Montana Field Directors' Forum

1. This field experience should provide the student with the opportunity for an unbiased assessment and realistic challenges. Therefore, students are not placed where relatives and close friends are employed by the local school or attending the school.
2. Higher Education Institutions make every effort to reduce the burden on the K-12 schools and to honor their policies. Students are not to make their own placements. This policy also excludes friends or relatives from intervening.
3. A variety of experiences provide the most learning. Students should not expect to student teach where they attended school.
4. Working at a part time job during your field experience is discouraged. If it is absolutely necessary to work while student teaching, please keep your priorities straight. It would be shortsighted to be successful at work and fail or do poorly at student teaching.
5. All student teachers should have liability insurance before entering their assigned school. The MEA/MFT provide good coverage at a very low rate.
6. Cooperating teachers must have at least three years teaching experience at a similar grade and/or subject as the student teaching assignment. The teacher should be recommended to the university as a strong candidate for a cooperating teacher by the immediate supervisor and be an enthusiastic participant in the teaching profession and in teacher education.