

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

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Paid Student Teaching in Minnesota

Current Student Teaching Requirement:

- Candidates must complete a minimum of 12 weeks of full-time student teaching.
- For most teacher candidates¹ student teaching is an unpaid experience.

History of Unpaid Student Teaching:

- Our current student teaching expectations began when student teachers were predominantly full-time undergraduates, often supported financially by their parents.
- Unpaid internships were common in undergraduate studies across content areas.
 - We now recognize that such unpaid expectations disadvantage students from mid to lower financial brackets.
 - Due to this recognition, unpaid internships are now less common overall.
 - The Dept. of Labor and Industry classifies student teaching as work in registered apprenticeships and should be compensated

Current Student Teacher Demographics:

- Student teachers are both undergraduates
 - Many undergraduates are nontraditional adult students.
 - Adult student teachers often come into the profession as career changers or as non-licensed school professionals with or without bachelor's degrees.

Financial Stability for Students:

- Both undergraduate and graduate student teachers frequently report experiencing extreme financial distress during the student teaching
- Many teacher candidates do not complete their programs because three months without an income is not a viable option for them or their families..
- When student teachers have to work evenings and weekends to support themselves or their families during this time, they are unable to participate fully, learn less, and often experience burnout.

Improved Teacher Preparation:

- Financial support enables student teachers to dedicate more time and energy to the required tasks (e.g., needs of students, lesson planning, assessments) and become more skilled teachers.
- A student teacher is a second trained adult in the classroom

¹ Teachers on a Tier 2 license are able to fulfill the student teaching requirement in their own classroom with university supervision and district mentor. Tier 2 student teachers would not receive stipends.