UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

College of Education

Student Teaching Policy Regarding Work Stoppages or Unexpected School Closings in Cooperating School Districts

In the event of a partial or complete work stoppage in the district as a consequence of action taken by some or all of the district's teachers during the time student teachers are assigned to the district, student teachers from the University will be encouraged to assume the role of neutral persons and to maintain a "nonpartisan status" with respect to the work stoppage. Specifically:

1. Student teachers shall not be required to participate in "picketing" or other work stoppage actions.

2. Student teachers shall not be required to cross picket lines or to supervise classes when such action would constitute a "breaking" of the work stoppage.

3. Student teachers, at their own discretion, may attend teachers' association meetings, faculty meetings, school board meetings, and other gatherings covering the work stoppage in the role of an interested observer and for the value of the learning experience that such participation may provide to the professional development of student teachers at this point in their preparation for teaching. However, student teachers shall not advocate a position or in any way actively support any of the parties involved in the work stoppage.

4. If the student teachers choose to participate on either side of the work stoppage, such participation shall be as individuals and not as student teachers. The University of Illinois at Chicago disclaims any liability or responsibility for any action or the consequences of any action taken by such individuals and their participation.

5. In the event of a partial work stoppage in the district, student teachers may report to schools in the district to which they are assigned for student teaching providing they can gain access to the school without crossing picket lines and providing that more than one-half of both the teacher candidates and the regular teachers of said school are present and that their supervising teachers will also be present. During a partial work stoppage, no student teacher shall act as a substitute or act in any capacity other than that inherent in his/her original assignment.

In the event of a complete work stoppage in the district at the time student teachers are scheduled to begin their student teaching assignments, or in the event a complete work stoppage takes place during the time student teachers are in the process of completing their assignments, if in either case the work stoppage continues for a week or more, the University may make arrangements for an extended student teaching experience, an alternate placement in another district, or an appropriate alternative experience. Student teachers in either of these two situations shall report to their University Field Instructors for information regarding the course of action to be taken.

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