Professional Development Schools

Elementary Schools
- Elizabeth - Westminster Academy #26 (Pre-K - 5)
- Hillside - Calvin Coolidge Elementary School
- Perth Amboy - Flynn Elementary School
- Rahway - Cleveland, Franklin, Madison and Roosevelt Elementary Schools
- Roselle - Harrison Elementary School
- Woodbridge - Matthew Jago Elementary School

Middle School Sites
- *Elizabeth - Westminster Academy #26 (6 - 8)
- *Hillside - Walter O. Krumbiegel Middle School
- *Linden - Soehl Middle School
- **Perth Amboy - McGinnis Middle School
- **Piscataway - Conackamack Middle School
- *Rahway - Rahway Middle School

High School Sites
- Linden High School
- Plainfield High School
- Rahway High School

Transition to Teaching Districts
- Elizabeth
- New Brunswick
- Perth Amboy
- Plainfield

Special Education Sites
- Morris-Union Jointure Commission - Special Education placements are available at school sites listed above.

Selected Resources on Professional Development Schools

Printed Resources

On-Line Resources
- MSU - www.gateways.msu.edu/307bib.html
- NCATE - www.ed.sc.edu/pds/ncate.htm

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Introduction

In line with national movements in education, Kean University, in partnership with area school districts, has created a network of Professional Development Schools (PDSs), in which prospective teachers are prepared through a complex, comprehensive and systematic approach. The work in a PDS is designed to improve student learning, strengthen teacher education, promote professional development, and support collaborative inquiry.

What is a Professional Development School?

Professional Development Schools have been advocated in many commissions and reports on teacher education (Goodlad, 1990; Holmes, 1986; Holmes, 1990; Levine, 1992) as a vehicle for educational change. Darling-Hammond (1998) describes PDSs as places where prospective and cooperating teacher learning becomes (1) experimental, (2) grounded in teacher questions, (3) collaborative, (4) connected to and derived from teachers’ work with their students, and (5) sustained, intensive, and connected to other aspects of school change.

What are the Goals of Professional Development Schools?

The central goal is to create an exemplary school environment that provides for the ongoing tasks of school renewal while seeking to serve the needs of P-12 students. A PDS provides a clinical setting for pre-service education in which university students and P-12 faculty engage in professional development, receive intense supervision, promote and conduct inquiry that advances knowledge of schooling, foster parental involvement with the school, and strengthen the university-school collaboration.

Why Choose a Professional Development School?

- A clinical instructor is available two days each week for preprofessional and professional interns.
- Teacher candidates are placed in cohorts of 6 to 12 students, reducing feelings of isolation.
- Collaborative work focuses on best instructional practices for P-12 student learning.
- Daily feedback is available from school-based as well as university-based teacher educators.
- Seminars are held to learn about lesson planning, classroom management, teaching strategies, journal writing, creating portfolios, and interviewing for jobs.
- Teacher candidates have opportunities to share their experiences with others.
- Master teachers demonstrate lessons.
- Teacher candidates co-teach with cooperating teachers.
- Teacher candidates have the opportunity to spend their preprofessional and professional field experiences with the same teacher.
- Emphasis is on developing an inquiry stance on teaching using Teacher Work Sample methodology.
- Opportunities are available to teach and observe across grade levels.
- P-12 students in PDSs experience more hours of professional educators’ attention.
- Professional development conducted in PDSs is more closely integrated with preservice education.
- Strategies are developed that bring theory to practice and practice to theory.
- Interns are encouraged to collaborate and problem solve during their preservice development.

Placement in a PDS

A professional development school offers an intensive field-based program where learning to teach is accomplished through teaming with a cooperating teacher and a clinical instructor for a semester or an entire school year. This experience follows the school district’s calendar with interns spending five (5) days a week (preprofessionals invest at least one day a week at the school) developing best practices that connect theory to practice and practice to theory.

How to Apply for a Placement in a Professional Development School

- Obtain a field experience application from the Teaching Performance Center and/or attend an Application Meeting in mid-November.
- Indicate your interest in placement at a professional development school by completing the appropriate section on the application.
- University Clinical Instructors will review all applications indicating an interest in PDSs and, dependent upon the availability of placements within each school, students will be contacted via e-mail or phone.
- If you are chosen for consideration for placement at a PDS, you will be invited to interview with the university clinical instructor and the school principal.

Placements are available in the certification areas of:
- Bilingual/Elementary
- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- Fine Arts
- Music
- Physical Education/Health
- Secondary (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Spanish & Theatre)
- Speech Pathology
- Teacher of Students with Disabilities