

**The College of New Jersey
School of Education
Professional Development School Network**

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

Between

The College of New Jersey and Readington Township Public Schools

The Professional Development School Network (PDSN) of The College of New Jersey is a partnership between the School of Education and selected New Jersey public school districts that formally agree to enter into a collaborative relationship for the benefit of the community of learners at all sites. This community includes students, prospective educators, practicing educators, college faculty, and school and college administrators. The partnership focuses on professional development across the continuum of practice for all educators and exists between The College and the districts, and among the districts. The PDSN partnership is designed to prepare high quality teachers and other educators to enter the profession, to renew educators already in the profession, to link theory to effective practice in the schools, and, through collaborative inquiry, to generate new knowledge about teaching, learning, and schooling.

Overview of Articulation Agreement

This document delineates the principles under which The College of New Jersey PDSN functions. Each of the sections which follow outlines the general responsibilities of The College and the districts in the areas that define the partnership.

I. The Network as a Partnership

The PDSN functions as a whole group engaging in discourse and activities that enrich the individual partners and increase the capacity of the partnership to improve education. The Network, as a Partnership, shares information and resources and takes joint action on such issues as policy, funding, and education reform initiatives. To support the PDSN as a Partnership:

The College of New Jersey School of Education will:

- Send representatives from The College staff, faculty, and student body to attend each PDSN meeting.
- Provide a meeting site for scheduled PDSN meetings.
- Maintain a website, and publish and distribute a newsletter including information on professional development activities offered by member districts and/or The College.
- Collect and disseminate information pertinent to the partnership's work.
- Coordinate preparations for and submit grants in collaboration with Network members.
- Offer roundtable discussions during PDSN meetings on thematic areas of mutual interest.
- Work toward the development of a PDSN website

The School District will:

- Send at least one representative per district to each PDSN meeting and assign a district liaison to the Network.
- Provide opportunities, as appropriate, for educators from Network districts to participate in professional development activities offered by the district.
- Voice and provide input on educational issues to be addressed by the Network.
- Provide information to The College on district events and issues and concerns.
- Disseminate information within the district pertinent to the partnership's work.
- Inform the Network of grant availability and participate in writing proposals.

The outcome of the work of the PDSN, as a Partnership, will be to enhance opportunities for communication and interaction that benefits the entire community of learners at each site.

II. The Network as an Academy for Professional Development

The PDSN functions as a professional development Academy for the Network's community of practicing educators in the districts and at The College. The Academy provides professional development experiences based on current needs, educational research and best practice to create reflective professionals whose ability to enhance practice will continue to develop over time. To support the PDSN as an Academy:

The College of New Jersey School of Education will:

- Provide faculty to facilitate professional development experiences.
- Provide workshops, graduate courses, and graduate degree or certificate programs taught by college faculty and/or district members at The College and on-site in the districts.
- Work with district partners to organize and present professional conferences to share new ideas.
- Work toward the offering of fellowships for teachers related to curriculum, instruction and professional development.

The School District will:

- Provide a liaison with specific responsibilities to work with The College to assure the quality and integrity of the professional development program.
- Actively encourage teachers and administrators to participate in and complete professional development experiences including workshops, graduate courses, and graduate degree or certificate programs to increase student learning.
- Provide sites, appropriate supplies and equipment for offering professional development experiences, as needed.

The outcome of the work of the PDSN, as an Academy, will be to increase professional expertise across the continuum of practice for all participants. As part of the Academy, the PDSN will also serve as an advocate for and provider of professional development experiences in accordance with the regulations of the New Jersey State Department of Education policy on continuing education.

III. The Network as a Set of Focused Professional Development Schools

The College of New Jersey PDSN will identify and support "Focused" Professional Development Schools. These are specific sites within the Network that engage in the type of inquiry, openness to innovation, and presence of higher education partners that characterize most schools described in the literature today as a Professional Development School.

Parameters are established within the partnership to designate current and future sites willing to become, over time, exemplary schools. The number of such schools in the network will be determined by the ability of the PDSN to support collaborative work within these schools. Information and program outcomes gleaned from the Focused Professional Development Schools will be for the benefit of all PDSN members and disseminated throughout the Network via conferences and workshops. Projects developed in Focused PDS will be replicated at other sites in the PDSN, and the Focused Professional Development Schools will serve as demonstration sites for other schools in the PDSN.

IV. The Development of Future Practitioners: Pre-service Education as a Shared Enterprise

The PDSN recognizes its shared role and responsibility in the development of prospective educators. Pre-service education at The College of New Jersey and in partnership with the districts provides prospective educators with the content and pedagogical knowledge to attain a level of professional excellence as defined in the School of Education's Conceptual Framework for Creating Exemplary Professionals. Partner districts provide the setting and resources for field experiences that support the development of educators. Partners in the PDSN work collaboratively across all

academic and clinical experiences to ensure that pre-service preparation programs are of the highest quality. To support the PDSN in pre-service education:

The College of New Jersey School of Education will:

- Ensure that the district or school receiving its pre-service candidates has a clear understanding of the requirements and expectations at each level of development of prospective educators in each program.
- Provide appropriate monitoring when placing cohorts of prospective educators in schools.
- Provide a college liaison with specific responsibilities to work with the district to assure the quality and integrity of the pre-service programs.
- Select college supervisors who are knowledgeable and current in their practice and qualified to work with district and college personnel to design, implement, and evaluate effective and innovative supervision experiences at each site.
- Organize and present pre-professional conferences for prospective educators.
- Encourage prospective educators to participate in Academy activities when appropriate.

The School District will:

- Ensure that The College has a clear understanding of the requirements and expectations of district programs.
- Provide a liaison with specific responsibilities to work with The College to assure the quality and integrity of the pre-service programs.
- Provide input and feedback for continuous improvement of programs for prospective educators.
- Participate in pre-professional conferences for prospective educators.
- Include prospective educators in activities of the Academy, when appropriate.

Together, The College and the districts will:

- Develop a cadre of cooperating educators and supervisors who share a common vision of the education of educators and, therefore, are designated as partners in that enterprise by both the districts and The College.
- Foster programs to encourage middle and high school students to pursue teaching as a career.

The outcome of the partnership's role in pre-service education is to redefine roles, responsibilities, and relationships among prospective educators, cooperating teachers, educators in other roles, district administrators, and supervising professors to encourage interactions that promote student learning and development.

V. The Governance Council

The Governance Council is the elected policy board for the PDSN. The membership of the Governance Council will be: (1) six district representatives; (2) two college representatives, one of whom is the Dean of the School of Education (or designee); and the Director of the Network, ex officio. The Council will elect its chairperson from among its members. The Council will present a slate of nominees to the PDSN members once every two years.

Additional nominations will be invited from the floor. Members of the Governance Council will be elected by the PDSN representatives. In order to maintain continuity within the Council, one-third of the membership will change with each election. The duration of initial terms will be staggered, with all subsequent terms being for a period of two years.

The Governance Council of the TCNJ Professional Development School Network will:

- See that all parties meet their responsibilities as set down in this Articulation Agreement.
- Serve as the review committee to approve proposed research projects conducted in the PDSN.
- Provide oversight for the selection of Focused Professional Development Schools and dissemination of projects across Network schools.
- Approve membership in the PDSN.
- Set fee structure(s) for participation in the Network and its activities.
- Approve expenditures and provide oversight of expenditures of funds designated for the use of the PDSN.

The Governance Council responsibilities include recommending to the Network that a district that does not attend the PDSN meeting for 4 consecutive months not continue as a member of the Network in the following year, unless in the view of the Governance Council there are extenuating circumstances. If the Network approves the recommendation, the district's membership in the Network is not continued in the following school year.

VI. Director

A Director of The College of New Jersey Professional Development School Network will be hired and charged with oversight of District and College responsibilities as set forth by this Agreement and the Governance Council. The Director will provide leadership, seek funds, and coordinate the activities of the Network.

VII. Acceptance of Terms of the Articulation Agreement

The School of Education of The College of New Jersey and partner School District enter into this agreement for a period of three years beginning on the most recent date appearing below. The agreement may be extended for another three-year period by mutual agreement of The College and the member district when this agreement expires. Should, after discussion with the Governance Council, a district decides that it must terminate this agreement prior to the close of the three-year period, that district shall provide the Governance Council with a one-year written notice to exit the Network.

VIII. Duration of Agreement: From July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

IX. Annual Membership Fee

The annual membership fee for each district is seventy-five cents (\$.75) per student enrolled in the district, not to exceed three thousand seven hundred fifty (\$3750.00) in any given year. A statement of dues will be sent to each district during the month of June.

Provost, TCNJ

Dean, SOE

Superintendent

BOE President

Date

Date

Date

Date