



CONFEDERATION OF OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

707 13TH STREET SE, SUITE 100, SALEM, OREGON 97301

TELEPHONE (503) 581-3141

FAX (503) 581 9840

July 24, 2007

Vickie Chamberlain, Executive Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
465 Commercial Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Ms. Chamberlain:

This past year in my role with COSA, I facilitated a multiple-step process involving public and private universities (OACTE), public school HR directors, administrators, and representatives of OEA and TSPC. The purpose of the meetings was to analyze the current practice around student teacher placement and to make recommendations for improvement if needed.

Among the issues considered were: ability to secure quality placements in schools and develop quality work samples at each level; a growing number of schools not willing or able to accept student teacher placements due to NCLB requirements; accelerated district demands for staff trainings; restructuring of schools into smaller learning communities; and the ability for rural schools in Oregon to attract student teachers. After working with various stakeholder groups and analyzing the issues, it is the recommendation of the COSA Liaison Committee to remove the requirement of two work samples at different levels for the completion of student teaching. We believe universities need the flexibility to provide a competency-based field experience option for their students.

OACTE has prepared a proposal that will positively address many of the issues studied this year. We believe that the flexibility the proposal provides will continue to develop strong teachers, reduce placement problems, allow for more rural placements, and maintain the quality of student work samples.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colin Cameron".

Colin Cameron
Director of Professional Development, COSA

cc – Tom Greene, OACTE

cc – Chris Nichols, Superintendent, Brookings SD, Committee Chair