

**Option Nine Agreement for Cooperatives**

This agreement between University of the Cumberlands and the Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) cooperative is entered into to provide expedited Kentucky teacher certification to participants. Participants will earn a bachelor’s degree from the University of the Cumberlands and initial certification from the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board within three (3) school years.

*By signing this agreement, school districts who seek Option 9 partnership with UC in the KEDC cooperative agree to:*

1. Employ the participant in a residency or paraprofessional program within the school district for the duration of the program as long as the participant is making successful progress in the Option Nine program;
2. Utilize experienced teachers employed by the district to provide coaching and mentoring to the participant;
3. Ensure at least one mentor is certified in the area in which certification is being sought;
4. Ensure the availability of funding for each participant for the duration of the candidate’s participation in the program as long as the participant is making successful progress in the Option Nine program;
5. Ensure at least one (1) year of employment provides hands-on experience in the area in which certification is being sought;
6. Continue this partnership until the district’s employed participants for Option 9 certification complete the program or are no longer employed by the district; and
7. If the school district determines to end the partnership, the district shall no longer accept new candidates into the program.

*By signing this agreement, the University of the Cumberlands agrees to:*


1. Accept work experience in place of student teaching; and
2. Assign a university supervisor to work with the participant during the third year of the program.

This agreement is entered into on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by

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KEDC  
Nancy Hutchinson  
Executive Director or Cooperative Representative

and




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University of the Cumberlands  
Trey Jarboe  
Provost/Executive VP Academic Affairs