

**281—79.15(256) Teacher candidate knowledge, skills and dispositions standard.** Teacher candidates are to demonstrate the content, pedagogical and professional knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary to help all students learn in accordance with the following provisions:

**79.15(1)** Each teacher candidate demonstrates the acquisition of a core of liberal arts knowledge, including English composition, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities.

**79.15(2)** Each teacher candidate receives dedicated coursework and demonstrates competency related to the study of human relations, cultural competency and diverse learners, such that the candidate is prepared to work with students from diverse groups as defined in rule 281—79.2(256). The unit shall provide evidence that teacher candidates develop the ability to identify and meet the needs of all learners, including:

- a. Students from diverse ethnic, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- b. Students with disabilities. This will include preparation in developing and implementing individualized education programs and behavioral intervention plans, preparation for educating individuals in the least restrictive environment and identifying that environment, and strategies that address difficult and violent student behavior and improve academic engagement and achievement.
- c. Students who are struggling with literacy, including those with dyslexia.
- d. Students who are gifted and talented.
- e. English learners.
- f. Students who may be at risk of not succeeding in school. This preparation will include classroom management addressing high-risk behaviors, including behaviors related to substance use disorder.

**79.15(3)** Each teacher candidate demonstrates competency in literacy, including reading theory, knowledge, strategies and approaches, and integrating literacy instruction into content areas. The teacher candidate demonstrates competency in making appropriate accommodations for students who struggle with literacy. Demonstrated competency shall address the needs of all students, including students with disabilities; students who are at risk of academic failure; students who have been identified as gifted and talented or English learners; and students with dyslexia, whether or not such students have been identified as children requiring special education under Iowa Code chapter 256B. Literacy instruction shall include evidence-based best practices, determined by research, including those practices identified by the Iowa reading research center.

**79.15(4)** Each teacher candidate demonstrates competency in all of the following professional core curricula:

a. *Learner development.* The teacher understands how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional and physical areas, and designs and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.

b. *Learning differences.* The teacher uses understanding of individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.

c. *Learning environments.* The teacher works with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning and self-motivation.

d. *Content knowledge.* The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry and structures of the discipline(s) being taught and creates learning experiences directly related to the Iowa core that make the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to ensure mastery of the content.

e. *Application of content.* The teacher understands how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.

f. *Assessment.* The teacher understands and uses multiple methods of assessment to engage learners in their own growth, to monitor learner progress and to guide the teacher's and learners' decision-making.

*g. Planning for instruction.* The teacher plans instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross-disciplinary skills and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of the learners and the community context.

*h. Instructional strategies.* The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.

*i. Professional learning and ethical practice.* The teacher engages in ongoing professional learning and uses evidence to continually evaluate the teacher's practice, particularly the effects of the teacher's choices and actions on others (learners, families, other professionals and the community) and adapts practice to meet the needs of each learner.

*j. Leadership and collaboration.* The teacher seeks appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession.

*k. Technology.* The teacher candidate effectively integrates technology into instruction to support student learning.

*l. Methods of teaching.* The teacher candidate understands and uses methods of teaching that have an emphasis on the subject and grade-level endorsement desired.

**79.15(5)** Each teacher candidate must complete a 30-semester-hour teaching major that minimally includes the requirements for at least one of the basic endorsement areas, special education teaching endorsements or secondary level occupational endorsements. Additionally, each elementary teacher candidate must also complete a field of specialization in a single discipline or a formal interdisciplinary program of at least 12 semester hours. Each teacher candidate is to meet all requirements established by the BOEE for any endorsement for which the teacher candidate is recommended.

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