

Upon acceptance into the Purple Pathway Program, schools and districts of the employed paraeducator will need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU lays out the detailed expectations of the district/building, paraeducator, and UNI.

Below are the highlights of the MOU that we want principals and districts to be aware of before indicating support for the paraeducator.

- You will need to identify a **Multi-Classroom Leader (MCL)**: This teacher mentor will provide on-the-ground support for the paraeducator(s) in the program.
- Some small/Brief paraeducator assignment changes are required for the first 1.5 years
 - Paraeducators will need to be given time during their workday to complete program assignments that are connected to classroom experience (estimated to be around 80 hours).
- Major paraeducator assignment change required for student teaching in the last semester.
- Apprentices should not be docked pay for participation in the PPP for completing classroom assignments and field experience during the work day including student teaching. In addition, it is estimated that the financial cost assumed by the school district to accommodate the para during the student teaching experience will be between \$6000 - \$9000 (estimated based on 16 weeks of student teaching, \$15 an hour for 37 ½ hours/week).
- For some of the classroom observations, the district may need to supply technology support/access for the paraeducators to record themselves.
- UNI will provide a variety of support for the paraeducators participating in the Purple Pathway Program—in the form of a Program Coordinator, Advisor, and Enrollment Contact.
- The Purple Pathway Program Coordinator will facilitate ongoing communication with the district and MCL about expectations and next steps.
- All participating Paraeducators are required to comply with the code for Iowa Teacher Education Preparation. This program has made changes to meet these state requirements while allowing the paraeducator to remain employed.

If you have any questions or concerns about the MOU, please contact Kris Donnelly (kris.donnelly@uni.edu) or Benjamin Forsyth (benjamin.forsyth@uni.edu).

