

TO: Cooperating Teachers and Student Teachers

FROM: University Northern Iowa Student Teaching Coordinators

In 2003 the Iowa legislature passed Iowa House File 549, which included the following text:

(2) The student teaching experience shall include opportunities for the student teacher to become knowledgeable about the Iowa teaching standards, including a mock evaluation performed by the cooperating teacher. The mock evaluation shall not be used as an assessment tool by the practitioner preparation program.

The Iowa Department of Education has provided the following guidance for implementing this new requirement:

Institutions are encouraged, but not required, to have students complete the mock evaluation form as a self-assessment tool that will be compared with the cooperating teacher's comments and used as the basis for conversation. **Institutions will not be required to collect copies of the completed instrument given that the instruments may not be used for assessment purposes.** The goal of the mock evaluation is to provide student teachers with an insight into their own skills relative to the new teaching standards. [Note: Iowa beginning teachers must be evaluated by a trained evaluator and documentation must be provided to support competence in all of the teaching standards. These requirements do not apply to the student teacher's mock evaluation.]

The University of Northern Iowa Student Field Experiences Office is providing a copy of the mock evaluation form to each student teacher and each cooperating teacher to facilitate the student teacher's self-assessment and conversation with his or her cooperating teacher. (See attached form.) We recommend the mock evaluation be completed between mid-session and the final week of student teaching. After this conversation, the student teacher keeps both forms as a possible addition to his or her professional portfolio; they are not to be returned to the Student Field Experience Office or to the Faculty Supervisor. A copy of Iowa House File 549 is also attached for your reading.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to fulfill this new student teaching requirement.