

## Role of the Roger Williams University Clinical Educator

Roger Williams University faculty, in the role of a clinical educator, serve as the link between the classroom placement and the university during a teacher candidate's Practicum and Student Teaching placement. The RWU Clinical Educator and the School-based Clinical Educator share responsibility for the professional development of the teacher candidate. Each provides a vital role in the mentoring and development of the teacher candidate.

RWU Clinical Educators:

- Observe the student teacher's work with children, families, key professionals and para-professionals with whom they work
- Conduct assessments of the progress of the teacher candidate throughout Practicum and Student Teaching
- Conduct three-way conferences with the Teacher Candidate and School-based Clinical Educator
- Provide ongoing feedback and suggestions to the teacher candidate
- Support the School-based Clinical Educator with reflective feedback
- Provide the student a third party with whom to process events
- Help the teacher candidate integrate classroom observation and college courses to sort out experiences and develop an emerging teaching style and philosophy of education
- Conduct seminars with their group of teacher candidates throughout the course of Practicum and Student Teaching
- Evaluate student assignments completed for seminar
- Become familiar with the School of Education *Student Support Protocol*
- Attend monthly RWU Clinical Educator meetings
- Complete a final evaluation of the teacher candidate
- Participate on the panel to evaluate *Eligibility to Student Teach* presentations at the end of the semester

## General Responsibilities of the RWU Clinical Educator

Although RWU Clinical Educators have their own styles and unique ways of carrying out semester plans, some general responsibilities of the supervisor are to:

During Practicum and Student Teaching:

1. Become familiar with the setting and instructional practices of the school-based clinical educator and teacher candidate by making a minimum of three visits to the classroom during the Practicum experience and five visits during Student Teaching.

2. Provide the school-based clinical educator and the teacher candidate with necessary information regarding the student's assignments and program expectations.
3. Provide the school-based clinical educator with all necessary forms and information regarding the program and procedures.
4. Provide the teacher candidate with a syllabus delineating all necessary forms, due dates, and information regarding the program and procedures.
5. Observe the teacher candidate's work with children.
6. Meet with the teacher candidate or school-based clinical educator alone as often as necessary during the semester. The school-based clinical educator should feel free to call the RWU Clinical Educator with questions that arise regarding clarifications of expectations or if help is needed in providing direction for the teacher candidate. The RWU Clinical Educator should share contact information with the cooperating teacher.
7. Be responsible for the assessment of the completed documents submitted by the teacher candidate throughout Practicum and Student Teaching.
8. Be responsible for conferring with the school-based clinical educator and teacher candidate in order to award the final letter grade at the conclusion of Practicum and a pass/fail grade for the Student Teaching experience.
9. Assess the overall field experience provided by the site.
10. Evaluate the field site and partnership with the school-based clinical educator.
11. Provide opportunities for school-based clinical educator to suggest program revisions and additions.