

University of MN- Twin Cities: Co-Teaching in Student Teaching

What is Pre-Service Co-Teaching?

Co-Teaching is defined as two or more teachers working together in a classroom with groups of students. In the context of pre-service (student) teaching, the classroom teacher of record and University of Minnesota's teacher candidate share the planning, organization, delivery, and assessment of instruction as well as the physical space. Both are actively involved and engaged in all aspects of instruction (Heck, Bacharach, and Mann, 2005).

What are Cooperating Teachers and Teacher Candidates saying about Co-Teaching?

Foundations Workshop:

- *Very organized! Thank you for all of the resources that can be used immediately with my teacher candidate.*
- *I like the very specific methods for co-teaching. This was well presented. I learned a lot!*
- *Great modeling of co-teaching! Well presented!*
- *Thank you for this model and the focused time to learn about it.*
- *I loved that you two team taught this session. It was a great way to demonstrate the model's worth!*
- *It's great that there is a model to advocate for a new standard for co-teaching with both the cooperating teachers and teacher candidates!*
- *This material was presented in a way that was interesting, reassuring, and gave a clear picture of co-teaching.*

Why Co-Teach?

Research reports increased academic achievement associated with co-teaching. A comparison of the achievement scores in reading and math of students in co-taught classrooms, students in a classroom with a single teacher, and classrooms where a non co-teaching model of student teaching was undertaken. Researchers reported that students in co-taught classrooms statistically outperformed students in either of the other settings (Bacharach, Heck, & Dahlberg, 2010). Co-Teaching in pre-service placements with teacher candidates:

- Increases instructional options for all students
- Reduces student/teacher ratio
- Addresses diversity and size of today's classroom
- Enhances classroom management
- Increases student participation and engagement
- Enhances collaboration skills
- Has a positive effect on student learning

How can I learn more?

Cooperating Teachers interested in hosting a teacher candidate in the classroom using the co-teaching model attend the *Co-Teaching Foundations* training. This before or after school PD opportunity will go over the framework, share the data that proves the success of the model, and teach practical approaches to have a

successful co-teaching experience. After *Foundations*, Cooperating Teachers and Teacher Candidates attend the *Co-Teaching Pairs* workshop. This after school workshop gives the pairs a chance to meet each and plan for instruction. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be provided. Contact Stacy Ernst at sernst@umn.edu or Patsy Vinogradov at vino0006@umn.edu for more information.

Pairs Workshop:

- *Nice differentiation of activity - it was fun and I feel like my relationship with my co-teacher deepened.*
- *As hard as it is to be here after a day of teaching, the time spent focused on each other and the process was valuable and important. Thank you!*
- *Thanks for the great activities to encourage us to communicate and get to know each other better!*
- *Love it! Love it! Love it!*
- *This was a really fun experience! We're pretty comfortable with each other already but you can always learn more!*
- *Thanks for taking the time to build strong foundations!*
- *This workshop is a great idea! It is so fun to spend time to get to know my co-teacher better.*