Messiah University *Educators for Tomorrow*
Dual Enrollment Program

Guidelines for Experiential Learning Component

This document provides a framework for the district-led experiential learning component. Many districts currently administer a Teaching Assistant (TA) experience. Districts are encouraged to utilize pre-existing district approved TA experiences/programs to meet the required experiential learning component of the Educators for Tomorrow program. For those districts without an approved program, Messiah has provided the following framework as a useful starting guide. In some cases, district administered programs are graded credit-bearing learning opportunities. Messiah University will not award college credit for these experiences, and the district has the authority to decide to award high school credit for these experiences per their district policies. Please reach out Dr. Christina Simmons (simmons@messiah.edu) with any questions or for additional guidance.

Expectations:

- Professional behavior and communication
- Active engagement in the school setting by doing as many of the following as time/setting permits.
- Completion of a minimum of 15 hours assisting in the classroom.

Observe/interact with master teachers, students, building staff, building administrators, district specialists and may include:

- Shadowing a student/group of students
- Observation of teachers who are solid models of:
  - Creating instruction accessible for all learners (differentiation)
  - Connecting with learners
  - Instructional planning
  - Implementation of curriculum & standards
  - Classroom management

Assist (under the direction of the teacher) with as many of the following as is possible:

- Small group work
- Tutoring individual students
- Preparation of instructional materials
- Other classroom tasks (i.e. taking attendance, grading)

Reflect on assisting in the classroom using documentation such as:

- Journaling
- Initial, midpoint, final reflection summaries
- Online reflective template