STATEMENT ON CANDIDATE PROFESSIONALISM
Kent State University
College of Education, Health and Human Services

Preparing to work in schools as teachers includes acquiring knowledge, skills and dispositions that will help all students learn. The purpose of this statement is to inform teacher candidates of the importance of professional dispositions in becoming a teacher and the procedure that is used at Kent State University to support the development of dispositions that will help all students learn.

Professional dispositions are values, commitments, and professional ethics that influence behavior toward students, families, colleagues, and communities. Learning to become a professional is far more complex than merely completing a sequence of college courses. A major component of professional teacher education (in both the KSU classroom and field-based setting), thus, includes the development of values such as caring, fairness, honesty, responsibility, commitment, and social justice.

Each faculty member in the College of Education, Health, and Human Services is committed to supporting candidate development of the following areas related to dispositions: Professionalism, Personal Qualities, and Work Ethic.

Professionalism refers to a commitment to working with a diversity of children, youth, and their families in appropriate ways to foster student learning. Professionalism includes treating others fairly and respectfully. It means being open to a variety of learning situations, maintaining confidentiality, aspiring to high ethical standards, and making professional judgments that are grounded in research-based theory and practice. It means projecting an appearance and demeanor appropriate to professional settings while in those settings.

Personal qualities related to professionalism include approaching situations with a sense of inquiry, seeking leadership opportunities in the classroom, accepting responsibility, using discretion in self-disclosure, actively engaging with others to promote learning, and being willing to work with a diversity of learners. It also means the ability to work collegially with others.

Work ethic is evidenced by attendance, punctuality, timely completion of work, and observance of policies and procedures.

The College of Education, Health and Human Services has developed a process by which teacher candidates receive regular feedback on their dispositions and an opportunity to show growth in areas that are considered important to teaching. Assessment of student professionalism will be used in making decisions about student progress throughout a teacher education program, including admission to advanced study and student teaching, completion of student teaching, and recommendation for licensure.

A disposition assessment will be administered by faculty and/or field based supervisors at least three times in field-based courses during a candidate’s program: Educational Psychology, Advanced Study course, and Student Teaching. Candidates will be expected to consistently demonstrate all of the behaviors and qualities on the assessment instrument by the student teaching semester. And Candidates will be expected to show that they are making progress toward this end prior to this time. At any time during a Candidate’s program, a faculty member or field-based supervisor with concerns about a Candidate’s professional dispositions may complete the disposition assessment. The Candidate must be
provided opportunity to write a professional disposition plan (PDP) and provide evidence that the area of concern is being addressed.

Candidates are advised that all of these documents will be electronically stored and available to appropriate faculty, administration, and advising staff.

Acknowledgment

“I have read and understand the Statement on Candidate Professionalism developed and adopted by the College Education, Health and Human Services of Kent State University. I understand that these professional standards will be used to evaluate my performance during coursework and in related field experiences. I further understand that any failure to demonstrate the behaviors and dispositions as outlined in the Statement on Candidate Professionalism may result in a formal review of my progress toward my degree.”

Student Name (printed)________________________________________________________

Student Signature_____________________________________________________________

Date_______________ Semester/Year_______________ Ed Tech Section________