

Richland County School District One

Field Placement Categories & Definitions

Richland County School District One strives to support cooperating colleges and universities in preparing highly-qualified teacher candidates through teacher preparation programs. We embrace our role in providing future-ready educators for leadership and service. It is our hope that this professionally rewarding field placement experience will launch a rewarding and successful career in education.

A field placement category/type must be selected when the electronic request is submitted by the college/university designee. These are the various field placement categories and their definitions:

Internship - An on-the-job experience that allows the student to apply what has been learned to a professional situation within a close mentoring relationship to gain practical experience. This clinical experience usually occurs at the end of a teacher candidate program. The cooperating teacher evaluates the teacher candidate's performance.

Observation – The act of observing a professional for the purpose of collecting data; no interaction occurs between the observer and the individual(s) being observed.

Practicum - A practicum is a college course, often in a specialized field of study, designed to give students supervised practical application of a previously studied theory. This clinical experience usually occurs in the early stages of a teacher candidate's program.

Student-Directed Teacher – A college/university student who is teaching under the supervision of a certified teacher in order to qualify for a degree in education; a student in professional teacher education program who is gaining required experience in supervised teaching.

Please Note (for College/University Coordinators): If a student needs to complete requirements for student teaching, "Student-Directed Teaching" must be selected when completing the electronic request for field placement.