

Mentoring through Co-Teaching

Co-teaching is two or more teachers working together in a classroom with groups of students. In the context of pre-service teaching, the teacher of record and 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. Research shows that co-teaching can have a positive impact on student achievement (Heck, Bacharach, and Mann, 2010).

The Twin Cities Teacher Collaborative (TC2) is a partnership of six institutions of higher education: Augsburg College, Bethel University, Concordia University Saint Paul, Hamline University, St. Catherine University, and the University of St. Thomas. Teacher candidates in TC2 teacher preparation programs co-teach during clinical practice. As a part of the co-teaching model, cooperating teachers and teacher candidates are required to complete professional development sessions on co-teaching prior to the placement. Supervisors provide support and collect evidence about the success and challenges of the co-teaching experience.

Why Co-Teach?

- Have a positive effect on **student learning**
- Enhance **collaboration** skills
- Increase student participation and **engagement**
- Increase instructional **options** for all students
- **Enhance** classroom management
- Reduce student/teacher **ratio**

Professional development components:

1. **Foundations** is a two-hour workshop. Foundations training allows participants to learn about co-teaching, how this differs from a traditional student-teaching model and the various co-teaching strategies. *Foundations* training is taken once by each cooperating teacher and teacher candidate.
2. **Pairs** lasts two to four hours, depending on time allotted for collaborative planning. The Pairs workshop provides the cooperating teacher and teacher candidate with tools for how they will successfully work together in the classroom to maximize student achievement. *Pairs* training is taken each time there is a new cooperating teacher and teacher candidate pair.

Professional development options:

- **District-based** – Foundations and Pairs training hosted at a **partner district**.
- **College/University-based** - Foundations and Pairs training at the **college/university**.