



A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO CO-TEACHING: Cooperating Teacher and Student Teacher

(Adapted from *Co-Teaching as Best Practice in Student Teaching*, The Academy for Co-Teaching and Collaboration, St. Cloud University 2014)

Why do we need co-teaching during student teaching?

Because teacher evaluations are being linked to student performance on standardized testing, veteran teachers are resistant to hosting student teachers. Also, the current model of student teaching (gradual release of responsibility to the student teacher) hasn't changed much since 1920. Student needs in the classroom have changed greatly.

The most important reason for the co-teaching model is that it *increases student achievement*. With more diverse student populations, more differentiated instruction is required. Co-teaching during student teaching offers two full time teachers in one classroom at all times.

What is co-teaching?

Co-teaching is defined as two teachers working together with groups of students, sharing the planning, organization, delivery and assessment of instruction as well as the physical space. This model comes from Good and Friend's 1995 model of co-teaching in Special Education.

The foundation of co-teaching consists of seven instructional strategies that maximize the use of the teacher candidate and cooperating teacher in the classroom to increase student success (see attached):

How do I know this method works?

Research at St. Cloud State University found that student achievement on state standardized testing was best for all students in a co-teaching classroom, next best in a classroom with no student teacher, and was the poorest in a classroom

with a student teacher, without implementation of the seven co-teaching strategies.

What are the benefits for me?

- Ability to reach more students' needs
- Better relationship with teacher candidate
- Professional growth
- Enhanced energy for teaching
- Hosting a candidate without giving up my classroom

CO-TEACHING IS AN ATTITUDE...WE'RE SHARING THE CLASSROOM AND THE STUDENTS, AND WE'RE BOTH TEACHING!

Prepared by Renee Langmuir, Director of Student Teaching and Field Experiences, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, Pa. January, 2015