

## **If Your Student Teaching Experience Goes Wrong**

Your college supervisor and cooperating teacher will work together to do everything we can to help your student teaching assignment to be a good one. At times, for some individuals, the student teaching experience proves to be overwhelming. Sometimes the cooperating teacher will feel that the student teacher is not ready to take on primary responsibility for the classroom. Sometimes student teachers find the work load intolerable. Sometimes an administrator will find that a student teacher's classroom management is too shaky to consider the student ready for licensing.

The "basic skills" of student teaching that are assessed at midterm are critical. Without these, you will not pass student teaching:

- **Preparation of long-term, multi-day, and unit lesson plans**
- **Preparation of daily lessons: materials, activities, content**
- **Successful classroom management routines**
- **Appropriate communication with cooperating teacher and other professionals**
- **Appropriate communications with students and families**
- **Demonstrated professional behaviors, including timeliness, responsibility, dependability**
- **Demonstrated professional dispositions toward learners and learning**

If identified problems are not able to be fixed in the particular student teaching assignment (which does not mean that you could not be fully competent in another setting), the Department of Education faculty will ask that you end your student teaching experience early and that you accept an assignment in an alternative setting. We will work with you so that you will be able to receive credit for the semester's experience; however, you will not be eligible for NC licensing until you fully repeat student teaching at a different assignment.

A student teacher may also be dismissed from student teaching in a public school if he or she demonstrates:

- An inability to handle the stress of daily classroom activity and problems;
- Too much difficulty in adjusting to various situations arising in the school or connected with school activities;
- Unwillingness to abide by the rules and regulations of the school district

A student teacher who is having difficulties in any of these areas will receive additional observations and conferences. An action plan may be created by the supervisor and the cooperating teacher in order to clarify what must be changed or improved. A student teacher may choose to discuss his or her situation further with the Teacher Education Committee or the Dean of the College.