

Student Teaching Application FAQs

- Student teaching is two years away! Why do I have to do this now???

SCE uses this information for all of your placements. The application tells us about your transportation, ESL/bilingual endorsements, grade level preferences, and all kinds of other good things! And, believe it or not, we start securing northern placements for student teaching a full year in advance!

- What happens if I don't have transportation?

If you do not have transportation for your early field experiences, we may place you in the Champaign-Urbana area so you can use MTD to get to your placement. We also cluster students in our other locations so that carpooling is an option.

If you request a northern placement for student teaching and do not have transportation, it will be your responsibility to work that out. We will do our best to place you as close to home as possible.

- Why do you care where I went to elementary/middle/high school???

Because of ISBE policy and in the interest of giving all candidates a fresh experience, we do not place students in schools they previously attended.

- I'm a middle grade applicant and am getting more than one endorsement. Which should I put first?

The content area in which you are most interested in teaching should be listed first.

- I'm interested in a northern placement for student teaching, but my hometown is not included in any of the areas on the map/my hometown is right on the edge of two areas. Which area should I pick as my first preference?

You can either a) choose the area that has a district that appeals to you; or b) pick the one that's closest and trust that SCE will consider your location when making placements. Please note in the comments districts that are close to you.

- What is the longest commute I can expect for both EFE placements and student teaching?

Under 55 miles.

- What is the comment box for?

Use this section to tell SCE anything and everything that might be relevant to your practicum experience. Example:

-My mom is the principal at Sunnydale Middle School.

-I would love to have experience in a rural district.

-I would love to have a dual language Spanish placement!

-If possible, I would like to student teach in District 123.

-I'd like to have a chance to co-teach with a special ed teacher.

-I have a car and would be happy to carpool with someone.

-I'm a parent and my kid goes to ABC Elementary. I'd like to avoid that as a placement/I'd like to be placed there – but not in his classroom!

-I have bad knees and would prefer a school with not a lot of stairs and easy parking.

- I feel EXTREMELY anxious about my requests! What if I change my mind about my grade level preferences or my student teaching location????

SCE is always here for you. Let us know if you need to make changes and we'll see what we can do. Remember that we start securing northern placements a full year in advance, so while we will absolutely do our best to accommodate you, please know that we have some constraints.

- There is an option to teach abroad? I might be interested, but need more information. What should I do?

Take a look at the College of Education Study Abroad Program website:

<https://studyabroad.education.illinois.edu/> and reach out to them with any questions you have.

If you think this is something you might pursue, let us know on your application.