

# **Student Teacher and Cooperating Teacher Tensions in a High School Mathematics Teacher Internship: The Case of Luis and Sheri**

Contributed Research Report

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Abstract:

We investigate difficulties that student teachers and cooperating teachers experience during the student internship experience by exploring the tension between one high school mathematics student teacher and his cooperating teacher. The student teacher and the cooperating teacher each took part in an individual interview. A follow-up interview with the student teacher, written artifacts, and an interview with the university supervisor were also analyzed. We identified seven causes of tension, which included different ideas about what mathematics should be taught and how it should be taught and a strained personal relationship. These results suggest that (a) cooperating teachers may offer less freedom than they realize, (b) mathematics educators and cooperating teachers may have very different goals for student teaching, (c) cooperating teachers may hold unrealistic expectations about the student teachers prior to their student-teaching experience, and (d) personal relationships can greatly impact the overall student-teaching experience.

Keywords:

Preservice secondary teachers

Teaching internship

Case study