



PROFESSIONAL ROOMMATE CONVERSATION*

Early on, mentor-TC partners have found it highly beneficial to have an explicit conversation in which they get to know each other's hopes, preferences, and work styles. Consider starting this conversation as early as possible—before the school year starts is best. It might be necessary to continue this conversation into the school year.

Getting started:

- Below, we share several questions that you might discuss. A day or two before your conversation, scan through and decide together what would be most useful for you as partners to discuss.
- Take a few minutes to think through or write out your own responses and work through page 2 about feedback.
- Give yourselves at least 30 minutes to discuss or break the conversation into multiple smaller parts.

Discussion questions:

1. What are our professional goals for this upcoming year, individually and together?
2. How and when should the teacher candidate be introduced to students? How do we want to refer to each other and define our roles with students? With colleagues?
3. When and how frequently might we have conversations about our work together (goals, progress, transitions, etc.)? (Consider looking through the program trajectory together as part of this.)
4. How do we want to communicate about and plan for university requirements?
5. What are each of us most excited about or nervous about this upcoming year?
6. How does each of us prefer to work? (e.g. planning things far in advance vs. plan as you go, experimenting and risk-taking with lessons vs. staying in step with department and other class sections, etc.)
7. What kinds of situations tend to make each of us stressed? How could we support each other in these situations?
8. Generally, how do you prefer to give and/or receive feedback? Select your preferences for the following and discuss what these might look like and mean for your work together.

*The name "professional roommate conversation" comes from an experienced mentor who launches each year with a TC this way!

