



SkillBridge Instructional Internship Program

February 2025

Program Overview

The Pinellas County Schools SkillBridge Internship Program provides transitioning service members the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and foundational skills in education. This program is designed to equip participants with practical knowledge, classroom management expertise, and instructional strategies in preparation for a career in education. Through guided field experiences, targeted professional learning, and mentorship from experienced Clinical Education trained educators, SkillBridge participants will develop the essential competencies required for a successful transition into the teaching profession.

Program Components

Pinellas County Schools Program Components are designed to provide the SkillBridge participant foundational knowledge and experiences in the fundamental areas of teaching to include Classroom Management, Lesson Planning, Instructional Delivery and Assessment. The Skill Bridge intern will participate in this cost-free training through Pinellas County Schools during their 14-16 week internship. Comp Time from their classroom experience will be given on the day(s) the training takes place.

1. Professional Learning Series

SkillBridge participants will engage in two professional learning series that lay the groundwork for effective teaching:

Classroom Management Series (5 courses, 2-3 hrs./course)

- Focus on establishing and maintaining successful classroom systems and routines.
- Sessions include topics such as behavior management strategies, cultivating positive classroom culture, and creating a learning environment that maximizes student engagement.

The 5 Essentials (5 Courses, 2 hrs./course)

- Training in the foundational elements of effective instruction.
- High expectations for students.
- Strong relationships and classroom culture.
- Engaging and rigorous instruction.
- Purposeful and aligned planning.
- Data-driven decision-making.

2. Field Experience Observations

Participants will complete the following during their classroom experience:

Observations: Focus on observing classroom systems, teacher-student interactions, and instructional practices.

Small Group Instruction: Focus on working with small groups of students, directed by the supervising classroom teacher.

Lesson Instruction: Teach whole-group lessons under the supervision of the classroom teacher.

- Each lesson will include evaluation and feedback based on the Teach Like a Champion rubric.

3. School Placement with Site-Based Coaches

Internship (14-16 weeks – observation based as well as utilizing content and strategies learned in Pinellas County Schools training to include teaching small group and (4) individual lessons). Participants will be placed in a Pinellas County school under the guidance of site-based coaches. Key responsibilities and activities include:

SkillBridge Instructional Internship Program (continued)

Content Planning:

- Collaborate with the site-based coach and grade-level or subject-area teams to develop lesson plans aligned to curriculum standards.
- Learn to differentiate instruction to meet the diverse needs of students.

Classroom Experience:

- Gradual release of responsibilities to teach small and whole group lessons, implement classroom routines, and engage with students under the supervision of the site-based coach.
- Participate in collaborative planning and professional learning community (PLC) meetings to reflect on practices and refine skills.

4. Feedback and Progress Monitoring

Supervising teachers will utilize the **Teach Like a Champion Rubric** to provide participants with detailed feedback and monitor progress during whole group lessons.

Feedback will focus on the successful implementation of:

- Classroom systems and routines.
- Behavior management and student engagement techniques.
- High-quality instruction and rigorous expectations.
- Ongoing coaching and reflection will be conducted to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with best practices.

Participant Outcomes

By the end of the internship, the Skill Bridge participants will:

- Develop and apply effective classroom management strategies.
- Demonstrate the ability to implement the 5 Essentials of teaching.
- Gain hands-on experience in content planning and delivery.
- Establish systems and routines that foster a positive and productive learning environment.
- Receive actionable feedback based on the Teach Like a Champion framework to refine and enhance instructional practices.

Internship Plan Outline

INTERN PLAN BY WEEK	CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE FORMAT/OUTCOME(S)	PCS TRAINING OUTCOME(S)
Week 1	Observation	Register for Classroom Management and 5 Essentials <i>(* 5 Essentials will be offered each semester, follow schedule when registering for fall or spring)</i>
Week 2	Observation	
Week 3*	Observation	Attend Classroom Management
Week 4*	Observation, Begin Small Group	Attend Classroom Management, Begin Content Planning
Week 5*	Observation, Continue Small Group	Attend Classroom Management, Continue Content Planning
Week 6*	Observation, Continue Small Group	Attend Classroom Management, Continue Content Planning
Week 7*	Observation, Continue Small Group	Attend Classroom Management, Continue Content Planning

Week 8*	Teach Lesson #1 (Evaluation: Teach Like a Champion rubric)	Attend Classroom Management, Continue Content Planning
Week 9*	Observation, Continue Small Group	Continue Content Planning
Week 10*	Teach Lesson #2 (Evaluation: Teach Like a Champion rubric)	Continue Content Planning
Week 11*	Observation, Continue Small Group	Site-Based Coach time, Continue Content Planning
Week 12*	Teach Lesson #3 (Evaluation: Teach Like a Champion rubric)	Site-Based Coach time, Continue Content Planning
Week 13*	Observation, Continue Small Group	Site-Based Coach time, Continue Content Planning
Week 14-16*	Week 14: Teach Final Lesson (Evaluation: Teach Like a Champion rubric) Week 15: Observe other grade levels within the campus Week 16: Continue to observe other grade levels and create on-line folder to include Teach Like a Champion rubric from all evaluations	Week 14: Finish Site-Based Coach time, Finish Content Planning Week 15 & 16: Wrap-Up - create an on-line folder using Make it Mine from 5 Essentials and Planning/Application Page(s) from Classroom Management

Eligibility and Application

To qualify for the Pinellas County Schools Instructional SkillBridge Internship Program, participants must meet the following requirements:

- Have 180 days of service or fewer remaining prior to your date of discharge and you have at least 180 continuous days of active service.
- Obtain approval from their unit commander to participate in Skill Bridge to include all necessary military paperwork.
- Express a strong interest in pursuing a career in education.
- Minimum of an associate degree or bachelor's degree.

Interested candidates can apply through the Talent Acquisition Department by submitting a résumé, a statement of interest, and a letter of approval from their unit commander.

Contact Information

For more information about the Pinellas County Schools Instructional SkillBridge Internship Program, contact:

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