

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The Mission of the Unit is to prepare *competent, collaborative, caring and reflective educators* who are committed to excellence in their profession. The Unit's Mission is aligned with Dalton State College's mission of providing broad access to quality higher education to the population of Northwest Georgia, thereby enhancing the region's economic vitality and quality of life. The Unit's Mission is further supported by the Unit's philosophy that each student is a unique learner and is further expressed in the Unit's goals. The mission is the context for how professional, state, and institutional standards are addressed in the DSC professional teacher education programs.

The Unit's commitment to the preparation of professional educators for a diverse community of learners reflects the Unit's commitment to ensure teacher candidates acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions stated in the Mission Statement of preparing *competent, collaborative, caring and reflective educators*. The Unit believes that each element in the Mission Statement is of equal value, and is critical to the preparation of professional educators who are committed to offering children equitable educational opportunities. The commitment supported by the philosophy and the Unit's Beliefs and further expressed in the Unit's Goals, is the context for how professional, state, and institutional standards are addressed in the Education Unit's professional teacher education programs. Candidates' proficient demonstration of the knowledge, skills and dispositions of the Conceptual Framework embraces the competencies and proficiencies of the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium Principles (INTASC Principles) and the Georgia State Standards.