System Letter of Commitment
Teacher Leader Endorsement

I understand ____________________________ is a prospective candidate in the Teacher Leader
(Candidate’s Name)

Endorsement Program at the University of Georgia and will be required to participate in Teacher
Leadership experiences to complete requirements established by the Georgia Professional Standards
Commission (GaPSC). To be able to successfully complete these experiences, the candidate must have
a signed agreement for the approval and support of the school administration in order to be admitted to
the program. A district-level administrator and/or designee should review and complete this form as
the system is making a commitment to support the prospective Teacher Leader candidate and to work
alongside the University of Georgia to provide positive learning experiences.

The Teacher Leader Endorsement supports the development of school and system capacity. The
activities and experiences included in the Teacher Leader Endorsement Program are designed to be
valuable to the home school and school community, and can include a range of activities such as
addressing curriculum issues, improving school climate, researching content problems or
innovations, designing and implementing interventions to address problems, mentoring and
coaching other faculty members, and providing research-based and job-embedded professional
development to other teachers.

The following list is an overview of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission criteria for
the Teacher Leader Endorsement that will require administrative participation and support. The
administrator signing this document, or this administrator’s designee at the system or school-
Based level, will serve as this candidate’s Teacher Leader mentor. Moreover, a system-level
administrator must sign this Letter of Commitment. The leader mentor assists in the following
ways:

- Agrees to be part of a Candidate Support Team that includes the teacher leader candidate,
  UGA personnel, and the system or school-based leader mentor to provide needed and
  appropriate support in the field.
- The Candidate Support Team will have three meetings during the residency, and those
  meetings may be electronic;
- The System shall support the efforts of UGA program personnel and the activities of the
  teacher leader candidate;
- The system shall provide time for the candidate to fulfill the responsibilities of the teacher
  leader residencies that will span two semesters (one semester could be the summer);
- Supports the candidate with access to serve as a mentor to a first-, second-, or third-year
  teacher;
- To gather data within the school;
- To work with stakeholder groups;
- Supports and helps to arrange cross-grade level and other opportunities for classroom
  observations and peer coaching;
- Supports the conduct of a professional learning project during which the teacher leader
  candidate will provide professional learning for a group of teachers, assess that learning,
  and submit a report;
- Supports the carrying out of an action research project that includes other school personnel;
  and,
• Acknowledges that experiences must occur in three education settings different from the school and the grade level in which the candidate works (P-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12). Systems are becoming strategic with the uses of technology and opportunities in the summer for teacher leader candidates to work across the PK-12 system.

The school administration reserves the right to approve all work prior to implementation, and all activities will be planned and guided cooperatively by the institution and school system personnel. The activities will be carried out over a two-semester Residency period that can include the summer semester.

NOTE: The administrator’s designee must have authority to (a) collaboratively support work in the field; (b) grant access as needed to students, faculty, and resources; and (c) communicate openly with university supervisors about the candidate’s performance. The administrator’s designee, if different from self, must also sign this document as an indication of support for the candidate, stating that he/she will collaborate as needed with the candidate and the University to maintain a field-based learning environment that is conducive to the implementation of Teacher Leader practices.

I am willing to grant the above-named UGA applicant permission to carry out the required course activities as needed and specified in this document.

___________________________________  ________________________________
Administrator’s Name—Principal        Signature and Date

Or

___________________________________  ________________________________
Name of Administrator’s Designee      Signature and Date

And

___________________________________  ________________________________
System Administrator Approval         Signature and Date

This completed form should be scanned and emailed to Ms. Holly Ivy, Academic Advisor for the Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy at hivy@uga.edu.

Questions about the residency requirements should be directed to Dr. Sally J. Zepeda, Professor and Program Coordinator of the Teacher Leadership Program at teacherleadership@uga.edu