RAISING THE BAR FOR TEACHERS

Aspiring teachers must meet more rigorous requirements to enter a preparation program and to earn a license to teach:

- Students who want to prepare to teach must have a 3.0 GPA, be in the top 50th percentile on grades or score "college ready" on a test of general knowledge.
- To graduate, teacher candidates must pass an assessment of their actual performance teaching in classrooms to demonstrate their readiness.
- These requirements are for all teachers, including those prepared and licensed in other states unless they have already passed a performance assessment. Teachers not prepared in Delaware have a year to complete the new requirements.

ASKING MORE OF PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Delaware is setting higher standards for the programs that prepare teachers to ensure every new teacher is ready to meet the needs of students on their first day in the classroom.

- Delaware has established its own process for approving educator preparation programs in conjunction with a national accrediting organization.
- Teacher candidates begin clinical experiences in schools in their first year.
- Programs must observe and provide formal feedback at least three times a year to candidates in their capstone clinical experience. Programs use an instrument aligned to the state evaluation system that includes measures of student progress.

USING DATA TO MEASURE SUCCESS

By setting goals and examining data regularly, Delaware is learning what works and can make needed changes along the way:

- The state will report on its findings in a "scorecard" designed to hold programs accountable and reflect the quality of their programs.
  - Recruitment, including the diversity of teacher candidates
  - Teacher candidates' performance, including on the classroom skills assessment
  - Placement in jobs, including in high-needs schools
  - Retention in jobs
  - Graduates' job performance, based on evaluations and their students' performance
  - Perceptions of graduates and their supervisor on how well they were prepared
- Programs will be divided into four tiers based on this data. Those in the lowest tier could be subject to intervention.

“In Delaware, we are committed to giving all kids equal access to excellent educators. By being transparent about the quality of our preparation programs, we can ensure new teachers have the preparation and supports they need to empower every learner with the highest quality education. None of this could have been accomplished, though, without shared leadership across school districts, educator preparation programs and key stakeholders.”

– Steven H. Godowsky, Delaware Secretary of Education