TRANSFORMING EDUCATOR PREPARATION

Making sure that every child succeeds in college, career and life depends on having a highly effective teacher in every classroom. Kentucky, a member of the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation, is taking important steps to make sure new teachers have the knowledge and skills they need.

Aspiring teachers must meet more rigorous requirements to earn a state license to teach:
• The exams that teacher-candidates take have been reviewed to align with the standards for evaluating practicing teachers, so they will be prepared for their role on Day 1.
• To address turnover, the state is looking at ways to create more leadership opportunities for teachers, including additional responsibilities, to encourage them to stay in the profession.

Kentucky is developing the Kentucky Educator Preparation Accountability System (KEPAS), which provides information on preparation programs and the teachers who complete them.
• This data dashboard has 48 measures, including information on teachers' classroom effectiveness, from preparation programs and other sources. Reports generated by the system are open to the public. Programs can use KEPAS to see where they stand and to make improvements.
• Preparation programs are partially measured by outcomes in a teacher’s first three to five years of teaching.

By setting goals and examining data, Kentucky is learning what works and making needed changes along the way:
• The state is conducting a study of its workforce to understand teacher supply and demand.
• The study will include every district in the state and project needs for the teacher workforce over 5 to 8 years.
• “Grow your own” models for teacher recruitment are being developed.
• The goal is to have these programs in 30 percent of districts in the first year after study is completed.

“In Kentucky, we know how important educators are to a student's success and that, to improve our teacher preparation programs, we needed a powerful data system that would help drive change. Through a strong partnership between the Kentucky Department of Education and the Education Professional Standards Board, we are now able to provide actionable data back to programs in a clear and consistent way to support their continuous improvement, and help ensure that Kentucky’s teachers are equipped to assist each and every one of our state's learners in reaching his or her true potential.”
– Dr. Stephen Pruitt, Commissioner of Education