Making sure that every child succeeds in college, career and life depends on having a highly effective teacher in every classroom. Louisiana, 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 will spend a full year working side-by-side with mentor teachers in K-12 schools through deeper partnerships between preparation programs and school districts. Experienced, effective classroom teachers will have opportunities to develop leadership skills through serving as mentors to aspiring teachers.

• Preparation provider faculty will collaborate with mentor teachers and school principals to support and assess aspiring teachers’ readiness for initial certification.

Louisiana is setting consistent standards for the programs that prepare teachers:

• Educators spent the last two years defining the knowledge and skills that aspiring teachers need to master in order to teach all students effectively.

• Preparation programs will partner with school districts to ensure that aspiring teachers master those competencies.

• State K-12 and higher education leaders are developing a multiple-measure quality rating system that holds all preparation programs to equal, high expectations.

By setting goals and examining data, Louisiana will learn what works and make needed changes along the way:

• The state is developing and using data tools, including an annually produced educator workforce report, to build the capacity of preparation programs and their partner school systems to make data-driven recruitment, preparation and certification decisions.

• These tools will include information about the teacher workforce by region, the number of certified teachers by certification area and the demand for teachers.

• Schools and certification areas that are typically difficult to staff will be highlighted.

“Across Louisiana, local school systems and teacher preparation programs have partnered to build yearlong residency models. This pilot program—Believe and Prepare—served as the basis for policy changes, developed in partnership with the Louisiana Board of Regents, that will grow these preparation practices statewide and ensure that all new teachers have ample time to practice and learn from Louisiana’s best teachers.”

– John White, State Superintendent of Education