TRANSFORMING EDUCATOR PREPARATION

Making sure that every child succeeds in college, career and life depends on having a highly effective teacher in every classroom. Massachusetts, 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.

RAISING THE BAR FOR TEACHERS

Aspiring teachers must meet more rigorous requirements to earn a state license to teach:

- Massachusetts has doubled the number of hours candidates must spend practicing teaching in schools over a full school year.
- The performance assessment individuals take to become a teacher is now aligned with the standards teachers will be evaluated against in the classroom.

SETTING RIGOROUS STANDARDS FOR OUR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Massachusetts has revamped the way it evaluates educator preparation programs to focus on outcomes:

- The state has developed an intentional process that seeks to build an evidence base for making decisions.
- The state’s process for evaluating educator preparation programs is rigorous and designed to elevate program quality and best practices.
- In order to be reviewed, programs with very low enrollment must demonstrate that they are needed.

USING DATA TO MEASURE SUCCESS

By setting goals and examining data, Massachusetts is learning what works and making needed changes:

- Massachusetts will be able to identify strong programs worthy of recognition and replication and weed out programs that are not producing teachers who can meet the state’s needs.
- Massachusetts paid for institutions to be trained on data analysis at a weeklong summer institute at Harvard University.
- Through data sharing and reporting, the state promotes and supports data-driven analysis and continuous improvement among providers.

“Our work to raise standards for preparation programs while requiring quality field experiences for new teachers is a key part of our continued efforts to provide all students with excellent educators.”

– Dr. Mitchell Chester, Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education