PREPARED TO TEACH launched its first implementation sites in 2018, establishing what has grown into a nationwide network of residency partnerships. In each partnership, teacher preparation programs are joining P-12 school districts to transform the recruitment, preparation, and hiring practices in their local education ecosystems. PREPARED TO TEACH supports each site by facilitating meetings, hosting cross-site convenings, and assisting with financial modeling, in addition to furthering the knowledge base around residency-style preparation by initiating a focused learning agenda. All sites take part in a two-year cycle of locally-driven work and contribute their processes, structures, and lessons to the learning agenda.

Site-based work is grant-funded, though partnerships focus on sustainability and all program costs for residencies are supported by current budgets.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

All implementation work is driven by local needs and partnership priorities. PREPARED TO TEACH uses a two-year cycle to guide sites as they establish their residency programs. During the first year, partnerships take part in a comprehensive needs assessment, then start to prepare schools and mentor teachers. In year two, initial resident cohorts enter the program. After this cycle, partnerships continue to grow their programs by reassessing shortage areas, district needs, and instructional priorities. Throughout the implementation phase, PREPARED TO TEACH supports individual sites and convenes cross-site meetings to share lessons and best practices.

LEARNING AGENDA

Partner sites also contribute to the development of the learning agenda, which documents the processes that institutions of higher education and their school district partners develop to offer high quality, sustainable residency programs for aspiring teachers. PREPARED TO TEACH established the learning agenda to grow the knowledge base around teacher preparation and more specifically around residency-style preparation. Each domain of the learning agenda—partnership development, program redesign, school improvement, mentor development, resident learning, and sustainability—includes guiding questions that sites, researchers, and PREPARED TO TEACH team members use to focus information gathering and analysis.
Western Washington University is gearing up for the placement of 20 interns across five schools this fall. District and school leadership are exploring funding interns through specifically allocated substitute paraprofessional and substitute teacher funds.

Sustainable change is being led in Southern California by the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Southern California. Both institutions are supporting schools in Los Angeles Unified School District as they explore ways to pay residents through substitute teaching positions, paraprofessional roles, as well as intervention tutoring and after school program support staffing.

The University of South Dakota placed 6 residents in a Sioux Falls school to pilot a program to help solve the building’s substitute staffing issue. Residents receive a stipend and are paid to attend training to ensure that they feel connected to the school and district.

The University of New Mexico’s College of Education is sailing through the first year of their newly designed teacher residency partnership program with the Albuquerque Public School District (APSD) and the Albuquerque Teachers Union. APSD has committed to using dollars from school recruitment and retention budgets to fund resident stipends.

Colorado, through the Colorado Consortium of Residency Educators (CO-CORE), is pushing for a widespread shift in early childhood education teacher preparation. Seven universities and organizations are partnering with early childhood centers to develop residency-style programs that are focused on preparing teachers for early childhood careers.

The Curry Teaching Fellowship at the University of Virginia recently piloted a sustainably funded model to pay student teachers during their full-time placements and provide coaching beyond the traditional year. This fall, UVA will expand to Albemarle County Public Schools, our largest partner, with a pilot group of 5-9 new fellows!

The Teacher in Residence (TIR) Program at Old Dominion University’s Darden College of Education and Professional Studies has welcomed Newport News City Public Schools (NNCPS) as a new partnership, adding to the existing partnership with Norfolk City Public Schools (NPS). Newport News has agreed to fund full tuition and stipends for residents.

Virginia Commonwealth University’s Richmond Teacher Residency (RTR) has recently signed on three new school districts to expand their reach beyond the students of Richmond. While resident stipends are currently funded by the state, each local school district has agreed to fund mentor teacher stipends, training expenses through the university, and full-time career coaches who support residents during their first two years in the classroom.