Education reforms can get messy. Schools, districts, and teacher prep programs roll out new initiatives, programs, and reforms all the time in response to common challenges. When districts encounter teacher shortages, they use emergency certification and fast-track prep programs to fill vacancies. If prep programs need placements for student teachers, they reach out to new schools to find qualified mentor teachers.

But those reforms often lead to new problems: districts end up with high teacher turnover when those fast-track teachers leave in a few years, and prep programs have student teachers scattered across schools and districts. Efforts to improve education become tied up with the challenges, and schools & programs are stuck in a cycle of subpar outcomes and new reforms.

Residencies simplify what’s happening in schools so that everyone wins. By building strong partnerships and paying student teachers to work in schools for the full academic year, schools and preparation programs can streamline their efforts to tackle the exact same challenges that typically spur many separate reform initiatives. Paid residencies make it possible for diverse, committed teachers to enter the profession, in addition to solving problems common in schools, districts, and preparation programs.

Funded residencies create and support a unified system with better schools, more diverse educators, higher retention, stronger teachers, and improved student outcomes.