



### CONTENT KNOWLEDGE & TEACHING METHODS

Coursework at the Seattle Teacher Residency does an excellent job preparing residents for the rigors of teaching. When combined with residents' concurrent teaching expectations, the program ensures multiple opportunities to enact key proficiencies gleaned from the course content. STR's coursework in the areas of classroom management, assessment, and differentiation is particularly effective.

#### **Classroom Management**

Coursework in classroom management begins in the summer and continues throughout the year. In addition to common staples found in classroom management courses such as maintaining efficient routines and procedures, STR also grounds a foundational understanding of culturally responsive teaching. By equipping residents with knowledge concerning social and emotional learning, trauma-informed pedagogy, and practices that promote an equity-minded classroom, residents are better able to understand students' needs before attempting to correct them.

#### **Assessment**

STR's focus on assessment ensures residents learn how to gather student performance data during instruction and how to use this information in real-time to inform instructional decision-making. All content areas encounter highly effective coursework in formative and summative assessment that is largely discipline-based. This crosswalked approach distributes opportunities to practice key proficiencies across the program at various points within the residency year.

#### **Differentiation**

Coursework in differentiation is similarly strong. Rather than framing differentiation as an ancillary component of lesson planning or design, STR explicitly addresses differentiated instruction as a key component of equity-minded instruction. Coursework explicitly addresses this dimension, and the Gateway Lesson Planning Guide also ensures residents place differentiation in the foreground of instructional decision making.

Beyond the quality of coursework content in these areas, STR has organized content in such a way that residents have routine exposure and coaching from multiple avenues based on the above topics. To encourage residents to see the interconnection and applicability of seemingly disparate topics, STR offers content in modules across the year. This decision discourages residents from learning material in isolation and promotes deeper knowledge. To promote alignment across the curriculum on the above topics, STR staff and staff members working with residents in Seattle Public Schools attend multiple retreats throughout the year to align content and expectations for resident performance.

For More Information  
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