14 LEVERS FOR QUALITY TEACHER PREPARATION

The connected parts of educator preparation that shape candidate readiness

Every child deserves an excellent educator.

Preparing teachers to enter classrooms ready to teach well takes more than strong coursework, clinical experiences, or assessments in isolation. It requires a preparation system that defines what candidates should know and be able to do, deliberately develops them toward those expectations, equips the people responsible for their growth, and continually improves alongside P-12 partners.

The EdPrep Performance Framework defines the systems, practices, and conditions required for high-quality teacher preparation. The 14 Levers for Quality Teacher Preparation translate that definition into the core program elements that shape candidate preparation in practice.

ONE SYSTEM. DESIGNED TO WORK TOGETHER.

The 14 Levers describe connected parts of the preparation system. They build on and reinforce one another, but they are not a prescribed implementation sequence. Programs begin from different strengths, evidence, needs, and contexts.

DEFINE WHAT READINESS REQUIRES

Shared Vision of Quality Teaching & Learning
Creates shared direction for what candidates should know and be able to do, and how the program will develop them toward readiness.

Explicit Candidate Developmental Trajectory
Clarifies how candidate instructional performance should grow from foundational to increasingly adaptive levels.

Intentional Performance Gateways
Uses demonstrated performance at key transition points to determine readiness for greater instructional responsibility.

Common Frameworks for Teacher Educators & Candidates
Makes performance expectations clear and visible across coursework, clinical experiences, coaching, feedback, and assessment.

DEVELOP CANDIDATE PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE

Practice-Based Developmental Experiences
Gives candidates deliberate opportunities to analyze, rehearse, and enact teaching with P-12 students.

Formalized Coaching & Feedback Structures Moves candidate practice into aligned and quality feedback that supports practice, refinement, and monitoring.

Ongoing Candidate Supports & Interventions
Uses evidence to provide increasingly targeted developmental support when candidates need it.

High-Impact Teacher Educator Practices
Makes teaching visible and accelerates development through labeling, modeling, rehearsal, and aligned feedback.

STRENGTHEN THE PEOPLE WHO DEVELOP CANDIDATES

Performance-Based Mentor Teacher Recruitment, Selection & Training
Select and develop strong mentor teachers who can both model effective instruction and develop novices.

Ongoing Faculty & Clinical Supervisor Development & Calibration
Builds teacher educator practice through ongoing, practice-based development and shared understandings of candidate performance.

LEARN, PARTNER, GROW, AND SUSTAIN

Data-Driven Decision-Making & Continuous Improvement
Uses recurring data routines to make decisions, act, monitor implementation, and improve preparation.

Collaborative Partnerships & Shared Ownership
Creates joint structures through which educator preparation programs and P-12 partners share responsibility for candidate development.

Strategic Candidate Pipelines & Workforce Alignment
Connects workforce needs to candidate entry, progression, readiness, completion, and transition into teaching.

Structures and Systems to Scale & Sustain Quality
Builds the roles, routines, resources, and shared ownership needed for quality to grow and endure.

EXPLORE THE 14 LEVERS

Each 14 Levers Insight goes deeper on one part of the preparation system: why it matters for candidates, what strong practice looks like, how it connects to the broader system, and a question teams can use to drive quality in teacher preparation.

CLICK HERE TO EXPLORE

FROM FRAMEWORK TO PRACTICE

Programs rarely begin from zero. Most already have meaningful strengths across coursework, clinical experiences, assessments, teacher educators, partnerships, and data systems.

The 14 Levers of quality teacher preparation help programs examine how those strengths work together through the experiences of candidates, identify high-leverage opportunities for improvement, and focus on the changes that matter most for teacher educator and candidate readiness.

FROM INSIGHT TO IMPLEMENTATION

EdPrep Partners works alongside programs, states, and their partners to move from evidence to prioritized action and implementation. Through Program Performance Reviews, Strategic Action Planning, and hands-on technical assistance, we help teams understand preparation in practice, determine what to strengthen, put prioritized changes into action, monitor progress, and build the capacity to sustain improvement.

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Let's make teacher preparation better together.