

Improving Educator Preparation Working Group Notes

Task Force Members Present: Dr. Chane Rascoe, Jean Streepey, Faye Ulrich, Dr. Greg Rodriguez, Dr. Judd Marshall, Josue Tamarez Torres, Janie Coheen, Rick Rodriguez, Vania Amado, Valerie Haywood, Dr. Roland Hernandez, Linda Galvan

TEA Staff Members Present: Emily Garcia, Marilyn Cook

Emily Garcia, Associate Commissioner, welcomed the working group members and, following a round of group introductions to reorient our time together, provided a quick overview of the day's charge. Ms. Garcia celebrated the ongoing contributions and commitment from the working group. She also emphasized the importance of the working group identifying prioritized recommendations and doing the collective work necessary to support successful implementation of recommendations that will yield effective, equitable, and sustainable change.

Several working group members reflected on Commissioner Morath's comments around funding and several members shared that there can be different perspectives on any issue, but that raising awareness around the importance of clear expectations when discussing issues was critical. Many working group members agreed that the use of data is important and can lead to interesting observations and conclusions on a topic, but that we must always be mindful about our framing around data and information sharing.

Ms. Garcia shared the following four themes of the working group's draft recommendations for prioritization and refinement:

- Increase the pipeline of teacher candidates
- Ensure readiness of novice teachers of record
- Norm on expectations between LEAs and EPPs for readiness of novice teachers
- Increase the consistent support for aspiring and novice teachers

Ms. Garcia provided information on prioritizing the list of recommendations by ranking them in terms of feasibility and impact. She shared the importance of centering our thoughts around what can realistically be done and what is the true measure of its impact. Working group members confirmed their understanding of the next action steps and were dismissed to work individually on ranking their choices through a survey that would allow the group to reach consensus on prioritizing our recommendations.

The group reconvened after lunch and Ms. Garcia shared the results of the survey for a group debrief and consensus on our prioritized recommendations. The group decided to focus on three themes: Incentivize & Support Paid Residencies; Increase use of High-Quality Instructional Materials in Educator Preparation; and Develop Cooperating & Mentor Teacher Training. The working group further refined those recommendations to include:

- Incentivize and support scaling of paid year-long residencies with an emphasis on residency EPPs that prepare teachers in hard to staff certification fields and/or rural locations
- Increase the utilization of high-quality instructional materials by promoting alignment between the resources used by the LEAs and their EPP partners

- Develop cooperating teacher and mentor teacher trainings that leverage research based best practices while enabling differentiation to meet with needs let's see those

The working group spent the remainder of the time articulating next steps for confirming the critical actors involved in implementing each recommendation and charged TEA staff with generating cost estimates for each recommendation specific to the actors identified.

Finally, Ms.Garcia summarized the outcomes that would be presented in the whole group session.