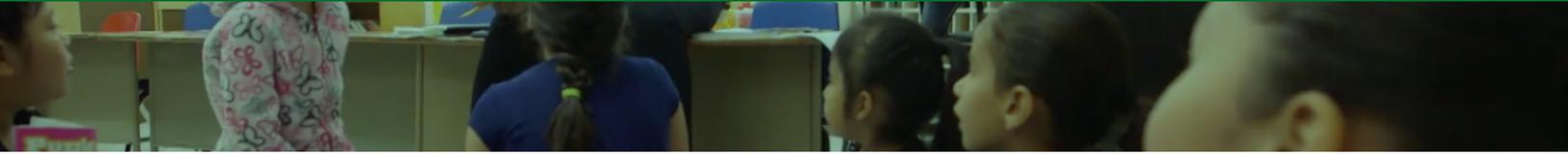


DOCUMENTARY VIEWING GUIDE



About the documentary

Novice teachers encounter many challenges, but they do achieve success—particularly when they receive adequate preparation and support. In partnership with Detroit Public Television, Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest created a [30-minute public television documentary](#)¹ that features three novice teachers in Metro Detroit and connects their experiences to research on quality preparation and mentorship. The documentary also shares expert insights from veteran teachers, school leaders, researchers, and leaders from teacher preparation programs and the Michigan Department of Education.

“There are some things that new teachers need—time, some content and pedagogy background, and then spaces and opportunities to try new things and to realize that not everything is going to be successful the first time.”

– Corey Drake,
Michigan State University

Intended audience

REL Midwest created this documentary as a tool for teachers, school leaders, state and local education agency representatives, and teacher preparation program staff to learn about evidence-based approaches to support and retain novice teachers. The documentary focuses on examples from Michigan, but the information and evidence shared in the program offer important learnings for people and groups based outside the state. REL Midwest hopes viewers will watch the program and use the following discussion questions as a starting point for a discussion on ways to improve teachers’ early years in the classroom.

Discussion questions

- What concepts or themes from the documentary resonate with you?
- What were your reactions to the approaches and research evidence presented in the documentary? Are there promising approaches that the program did not address?
- What challenges do you see in recruiting new teaching candidates? What are possible ways to overcome these challenges?
- What are some challenges in retaining high-quality novice teachers? What are possible ways to overcome these challenges?
- What approaches to supporting new teachers have worked in your state, district, or school?
- How can K–12 education leaders and teacher preparation programs work together to prepare new teachers?

About REL Midwest

REL Midwest is part of a network of 10 regional educational laboratories funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences. REL Midwest works in partnership with practitioners in seven Midwest states to conduct applied research and provide training, coaching, and technical support to create a more evidence-based education system. Please visit the REL Midwest website to learn more: <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/midwest/default.aspx>.

This material was prepared under Contract ED-IES-17-C-0007 by Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest, administered by American Institutes for Research. The content of the publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) or the U.S. Department of Education, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. government.

¹ Please visit this link to watch the documentary: https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/midwest/events/archived_events/2017/november_14.aspx.