Developing the “Compendium of Strategies to Reduce Teacher Turnover in the Northeast and Islands Region”: a companion to the database

Summary
Developing the “Compendium of Strategies to Reduce Teacher Turnover in the Northeast and Islands Region”: a companion to the database

Summary

September 2008

Prepared by
Pamela Ellis, Ph.D.
Education Development Center, Inc.

Marian Grogan, M.Ed.
Education Development Center, Inc.

Abigail Jurist Levy, Ph.D.
Education Development Center, Inc.

Kevon Tucker-Seeley, M.A. Ed.
Education Development Center, Inc.
Issues & Answers is an ongoing series of reports from short-term Fast Response Projects conducted by the regional educational laboratories on current education issues of importance at local, state, and regional levels. Fast Response Project topics change to reflect new issues, as identified through lab outreach and requests for assistance from policymakers and educators at state and local levels and from communities, businesses, parents, families, and youth. All Issues & Answers reports meet Institute of Education Sciences standards for scientifically valid research.

September 2008

This report was prepared for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) under Contract ED-06-CO-0025 by Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast and Islands administered by Education Development Center, Inc. The content of the publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of 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.

This report is in the public domain. While permission to reprint this publication is not necessary, it should be cited as:


This report is available on the regional educational laboratory web site at http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs.
This report provides state-, regional-, and district-level decisionmakers in the Northeast and Islands Region with a description of the Compendium of Strategies to Reduce Teacher Turnover in the Northeast and Islands Region, a searchable database of selected profiles of retention strategies implemented in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont.

Decisionmakers in the Northeast and Islands Region are facing teacher turnover problems and need to address them, but they have limited resources and information for doing so. There is inadequate information about which strategies work; how they are designed, developed, and implemented; and the impacts they have had.

This project, which developed the Compendium of Strategies to Reduce Teacher Turnover in the Northeast and Islands Region, is intended to provide decisionmakers with a tool for learning from the experience of others in their region. It provides a collection of program and policy descriptions in a searchable database that can be probed for a variety of key features. In addition, because the Compendium includes contact information, it can link decisionmakers to policy and program experts. Decisionmakers can contact program leaders directly with questions that are relevant to the decisionmakers’ work and context.

The Compendium is not a complete inventory of teacher retention policies and programs in these states but a sample that offers an overview of the range of interventions that have been implemented. A primary selection criterion used for including a policy or program in the Compendium was that increasing teacher retention was an explicit goal. The research team looked for evidence at the program level—from written documents, program websites, conversations with program experts, and other venues—that retaining teachers was at least one of the program’s explicit purposes.

Measures of quality, implementation, or impact were not among the criteria for inclusion, so it should be assumed that the policies and programs in the Compendium vary along these dimensions. Moreover, inclusion in the Compendium does not imply any measure of endorsement, and readers should not draw any conclusions about a program’s merit or standing in the field from its inclusion.

September 2008