



Partnership goals

Louisiana, like many states, faces significant challenges ensuring qualified teachers for all subjects, particularly in schools serving the highest concentrations of low-income households. To address this challenge, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) has launched [Believe and Prepare](#), a statewide teacher residency program. REL Southwest is working with LDOE, Louisiana State University, and the University of Louisiana Lafayette Educator Research Consortium to provide research-based evidence on the program and support the following goals:

- ▶ Examine the Louisiana Believe and Prepare program's relationship to teacher outcomes, such as teacher retention, mobility, and effectiveness.
- ▶ Support the continuous improvement of the Believe and Prepare program's implementation.

Projects

Through the partnership with REL Southwest, members engage in a learning cycle that includes training, coaching, technical support, applied research, and engagement activities to support the goals of the SWTPPD partnership. This work reinforces member capacity to use research in solving high-leverage education issues. To learn more about our current projects, please visit <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/southwest/partnerships/swtppd.aspx>.

Over the course of the partnership, REL Southwest and members will support Louisiana's priorities to explore teacher residencies, retention, and educator diversity. Through partnership-driven research and technical support, REL Southwest staff will support the state by studying early outcomes of the Believe and Prepare teacher residency program and provide coaching to develop a survey on teacher and mentor perceptions of the residency program.

Engaging our region

Engaging stakeholders is crucial to the REL mission of translating research into practice. Sharing research, learnings from training and coaching sessions, and insights from partnership members with stakeholders in the region is critical to SWTPPD's mission to examine and support the Believe and Prepare teacher residency program. For example, REL Southwest produced a [blog post](#) highlighting one of SWTPPD's practitioner members and the Believe and Prepare teacher residency program.

Visit the [REL Southwest website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) to learn more about our work. You can also sign up for the [REL Southwest Spotlight newsletter](#) for regular updates and browse our upcoming [events](#).

Preparing teachers to succeed through residencies



Only 6 percent of teacher preparation programs give student teachers frequent feedback and check the quality of mentor teachers, even though both are essential building blocks for effective classroom teaching.¹

Teacher residencies can provide new teachers with the information and support they need to succeed.²



In a teacher residency, new teachers practice under the guidance of an experienced mentor teacher for up to a year.¹ Residencies provide teachers with in-depth classroom experience, understanding of the school and district context, and individualized professional development.²

An LDOE survey found that teacher preparation programs and school districts have similar perceptions about the qualities needed for effective teaching, but greater collaboration is needed to fully prepare teachers for their first day leading the classroom.³



Louisiana's Believe and Prepare program brings teacher preparation programs and school districts together to provide guidance and actionable feedback to new teachers in their first year of instruction. The program provides all undergraduate teacher candidates with a yearlong residency under the mentorship of an experienced teacher and supports professional development of the mentor teachers.⁴

References

- ¹ Drake, G., Pomerance, L., Rickenbrode, R., & Walsh, K. (2018). *2018 teacher prep review*. Washington, DC: National Council on Teacher Quality. Retrieved October 5, 2018, from <https://www.nctq.org/publications/2018-Teacher-Prep-Review>.
- ² Guha, R., Hyler, M. E., & Darling-Hammond, L. (2017). The power and potential of teacher residencies. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 98(8), 31–37. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1139650>
- ³ Louisiana Department of Education. (2014). *Partners in preparation: A survey of educators & education preparation programs*. Retrieved October 5, 2018, from <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/links-for-newsletters/partners-in-preparation-survey-report.pdf?sfvrsn=6>.
- ⁴ Louisiana Department of Education. (n.d.). *Believe and Prepare*. Retrieved October 5, 2018, from <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/teaching/believe-and-prepare>.