

EDUCATION PROGRAM



The Foundation envisions children and youth developing the knowledge, skills, and character to participate fully as informed citizens, explore and understand the world around them, and take responsibility for the environment.

Teacher preparation portfolio

Recognizing teachers as the single most important contributor to student achievement, the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation invests in high-quality teacher preparation to enhance the skills of new educators as they build practices aligned to new academic standards.

Goal

Ensure that new teachers are well trained in the practices of the Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards, so that students throughout California have access to teachers who are ready to support learning aligned with these standards.

Approach

- A** Support select partnerships between California State University (CSU) teacher preparation programs and K-12 districts in their efforts to reform teacher preparation practices to align with new standards as well as district needs (New Generation of Educators Initiative).
- B** Fund exemplary clinical preparation and data-sharing partnerships to increase alignment between teacher preparation and district needs.
- C** Support advocates in their work to promote increased clinical preparation of teachers and data-sharing partnerships among teacher preparation providers and K-12 districts.

Progress to date

- In 2014, teacher preparation program reform efforts were launched at 13 CSU campuses.
- Spring 2016 grants are continuing support to a cohort of CSU campuses and K-12 districts to transform teacher preparation programs in alignment with new math and science standards.

Intended outcomes

- ✓ Grantee CSU campuses demonstrate increased partnership with K-12 districts as well as greater candidate preparation for new standards and district needs.
- ✓ The CSU system builds capacity for data-driven continuous improvement.
- ✓ In select California regions, districts and teacher preparation programs better align teacher pipelines to workforce needs through increased access to reliable data on teacher hiring, teacher preparation, and teacher performance.

Evaluation and learning

- An evaluation of the New Generation of Educators Initiative, conducted jointly by WestEd and SRI International, is assessing the quality of the CSU teacher preparation program, the pipeline of teacher candidates coming through it, the effectiveness of program graduates, and the capacity of the CSU system to engage in data-driven decision making.
- WestEd and SRI International are also working with the CSU Center for Teacher Quality and participating CSU campuses to strengthen their ability to collect and use data for continuous improvement.