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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MA DESE's HSSEIP and PDK's Educators Rising partner to support K-8 educators with inspired teaching interns

**Boston, Massachusetts**—PDK International's [Educators Rising](#) is proud to partner with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's (DESE) to train a diverse cohort of hundreds of students to support teachers and develop professional skills.

As part of a program with DESE's High School Senior Student Educator Internship (HSSEIP), PDK will train nearly 900 students in 80 districts across the state. Students in the program will support K-8 educators while gaining important work-based learning experiences. By introducing interested students into the classroom early, PDK hopes to inspire these diverse students to consider education for their career choice.

In today's hybrid and remote education solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic, districts are looking more than ever to provide teachers with additional support. DESE and PDK's Educators Rising have joined forces to use the HSSEIP program to use students already inspired to become educators to help in the classroom and potentially act as teacher assistants to meet learning goals.

"We were excited to work with MA DESE to adapt an introduction to education from our larger [Educators Rising Academy Curriculum](#) and [CTSO programming](#) for these students," says PDK/Educators Rising Chief Operating Officer Albert Chen. "We are committed to diversity and professionalism in education and work with districts to create 'grow-your-own' solutions for teacher recruitment."

For the program, PDK created a specialized “bootcamp” providing students introductory guidance in Professionalism in the Classroom, Understanding Bias and Equity, Culturally Responsive Teaching, and Formative Assessment.

The program is a collaboration led by [DESE’s Connecting Activities](#) leaders and [MassHire Workforce Board](#), [Commonwealth Corporation’s YouthWorks](#) program, and PDK’s Educators Rising, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing diversity in the educator pipeline, and school districts across Massachusetts.

#### About Educators Rising

[Educators Rising](#) is a community-based initiative, in which chapters at schools feed teacher preparation programs at institutes of higher education with the support of district leadership, State Departments of Education, and local philanthropists. These entities come together to provide pathways to grow and diversify the profession. More than 52% of Educators Rising members are students of color who will diversify the teacher pipeline and ensure every child has an effective teacher.

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