Additional Information Regarding Our Educators Rising Curriculum

Since 1906, PDK International has elevated the teaching profession through the intersection of research and practice. Educators Rising, one of our signature initiatives that is a reinvention of Future Teachers of America, is cultivating a new generation of highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path from high school through college and into their teaching careers. We are committed to high-quality classroom instruction delivered by an educator workforce that reflects the community it serves.

Educators Rising is for all students. Our programs aim to recognize and recruit future educators among current high school students and provide them with the skills they need to be successful in an educator preparation program at a local institution of higher education. The goal is to create a Grow Your Own loop where students become teachers back in their communities. Since these newly minted teachers are from their same communities, they will reflect the values and demographics of the local students.

Educators Rising provides a network so that students called to teaching are supported through Educators Rising chapters and guided through the Educators Rising Curriculum. As a career and technical student organization (CTSO), Educators Rising chapters provide members with professional development and recognition through competitions on the regional, state, and national levels.

The Educators Rising Curriculum provides an introduction to the professional skillsets and dispositions students will need to be effective educators in the classroom. Our curriculum allows for a unique opportunity to meet the needs of local school districts by providing a high level of flexibility to tailor content to their own needs. Districts can emphasize the content they want according to their vision and values. With career and technical education (CTE) lessons in 1, 3, and 5-day formats, teacher leaders are able to customize content delivery by spending more time on the topics they want to dive deeper into. Utilizing high-leverage practices, the curriculum is delivered in a way that best aligns with the values of the local school district.

Spanning five domains, our curriculum allows students to develop their own teaching personas, understand teaching and classroom management strategies, and gain an appreciation for the education profession. Part of the curriculum focuses on anti-bias instruction, which we believe — and research confirms — is essential for educators to understand their own stories and perspectives, and those of their students. We believe that all educators must be able to engage with each and every one of the students that sits before them. Some examples of references found within the curriculum include: Learning for Justice’s Critical Practices for Anti-Bias Education; the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights; Center for Research on Learning & Teaching based out of the University of Michigan; The Model Code of Ethics for Educators by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC); as well as our own Phi Delta Kappan magazine.

Educators Rising is excited to support educators across the country who are recruiting the next generation of educators and shaping the future of our profession. We stand by the need for an educator workforce that reflects the demographics of the communities they serve in order to provide an educational experience that is both meaningful and impactful for students. We encourage all education stakeholders to work towards educator recruitment strategies that allow you to Grow Your Own to best meet the needs of your community.