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Illinois Governor Signs Legislation Allocating Funding for Grow Your Own Programs

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed HB0900, today, allocating \$400,000 for the Educators Rising Curriculum for school districts to grow their own future educators.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS (April 19, 2022) – Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed [HB0900](#), today, which allocates \$400,000 for the Educators Rising Curriculum for school districts. The inclusion of this allocation is an important and necessary step in allowing school districts to develop Grow Your Own Programs to recruit future educators from among their existing student population.

“The allocation of these funds provides an opportunity for school districts to develop Grow Your Own Programs and join 29 schools throughout the state in maintaining a standard of excellence in the education profession, recruiting the next generation of educators, and diversifying the educator workforce through the Educators Rising Curriculum,” said **Dr. Joshua P. Starr, Chief Executive Officer for PDK International** – the parent organization of Educators Rising.

A Grow Your Own Program works to identify and recruit aspiring educators from among student populations, introduces them to the education profession, feeds into a teacher preparation program at a local institution of higher education, and later has them return to the school and/or district they graduated from to serve their communities. Grow Your Own Programs work to both recruit the next generation of educators and aid in diversifying the education profession to better reflect the communities they serve.

“Our teachers are a source of knowledge, they are some of our first role models, and they have the unique opportunity to positively influence the lives of our children every day,” said **House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch**. “The importance of a teacher cannot be understated, and The Grow Your Own Program helps to mold our passionate and talented educators of tomorrow. This significant investment ensures we are ushering in future teachers who reflect the diversity of their communities, and share a deep love and connection to those communities.”

“This is a 2-year investment in teacher recruitment which will allow us to recruit the next generation of our profession in more equitable ways. If we want our profession to be as diverse as the communities in which we teach—and we should all want that—we have to start recruiting from within all communities in Illinois. This investment allows us to do just that, and it will make access into our profession more equitable as we strive to provide more dual credit and scholarship opportunities to aspiring educators in Illinois,” said **Dr. Lindsey L. Jensen, Educators Rising Illinois State Coordinator and 2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year**.

Utilizing the Educators Rising Curriculum, school districts will be able to introduce their aspiring educators to the education profession while they gain valuable technical skills necessary to the classroom. Standards covered in the Educators Rising Curriculum include: Understanding the Profession, Learning About Students, Building Content Knowledge, Engaging in Responsive Teaching, Implementing Instruction, Using Assessment and Data, and Engaging in Reflective Practice.

To learn more about Educators Rising, visit educatorsrising.org.

About Educators Rising

In 2015, PDK International – in its 115-year commitment to the profession of education – launched Educators Rising, formerly the Future Educators Association (FEA). Today, Educators Rising 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. By working with aspiring educators who reflect the demographics of their communities and who are passionate about serving those communities through public education, Educators Rising is changing the face of teaching.

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