Understanding PDK’s Grow-Your-Own Program
A Solution For Today’s Crisis with Teacher Shortages
We’re changing the way kids get into teaching.

Most schools use Educators Rising to power their CTE program with support for a CTSO using these five components.

With Educators Rising, your district’s future teachers and principals are cultivated starting in high school. Districts use our “5C’s” approach to build a strong program that results in well-prepared future educators. At the heart of our program is the Educators Rising Curriculum which provides everything a teacher needs to start a Grow Your Own educator program in your school.

**Curriculum**

The **chapter model** we embrace opens up opportunities for student networking, collaboration, and **community** beyond your school with regional, state, and national events.

**Chapters**

**Conference**

Our **national conference** is an event that brings together high school students interested in an education career and offers students the ability to run for national office. **Regional and state conferences** provide local convening and competition opportunities.

**Competitions**

Our **competition events** are based upon the Educators Rising Standards and Curriculum, which were developed in alignment with the InTASC and National Board Standards.

**Community**
Why is our solution relevant today?

The teacher shortage is real—but we can solve it!

- 55,000 vacancies
- 270,000 underqualified teachers
- 1.6B baby-boomers retiring

There is rising evidence that communities are experiencing the ill effects of a national teacher shortage. This results in every classroom not having a highly qualified teacher.

The results include larger class sizes, the reduction of particular programs, and less individualized support for students.

Our program cultivates a love for teaching right in your high school where we know many will return after college to seek employment. Tomorrow’s teachers are in today’s high schools!

GYO works and the results are powerful.
Why is our solution relevant today?

Students want teachers who understand their values and look like them. With more teachers being white and female, there are schools where teachers do not look like many of the students.

Our program’s student profiles from our last conference mirrors the diverse makeup of today’s students.

With Educators Rising, your students will return to your community and reflect its diversity.

The teacher workforce does not reflect the diversity of the student population.

While people of color only make up 21% of the teacher workforce nationally, students attending the Educators Rising 2023 National Conference reported as 53% students of color.
Educators Rising Curriculum

Educators Rising Standards

I. Understanding the Profession
II. Learning About Students
III. Building Content Knowledge
IV. Engaging in Responsive Planning
V. Implementing Instruction
VI. Using Assessments and Data
VII. Engaging in Reflective Practice

From within your high school’s Educators Rising Program, to the drama of our national conference event, our curriculum provides the strong foundation designed to develop the next generation of teachers with its cross-cutting themes.

Our flexible curriculum provides options for different types of GYO implementations, including 1, 3, and 5-days per week schedules.

Our 2nd year curriculum expands assessments with project-based experiences and support for practical teaching experiences is infused throughout.

Training is available on how to implement the curriculum at your school for the first time.
From an afterschool club—to CTE program—and to a movement...

PDK International has been in support of teachers since its founding in 1906 as an honors fraternity. When we acquired the Future Educators Association, we inherited the chapter-based model that serves over a thousand chapters today with Educators Rising—launched in 2015.

With over 20,000 student members, our impact on the teaching profession is growing. A recent impact study demonstrated how Educators Rising benefits both high school students and the teachers who lead the programs in their schools.

We’ve recently invested in additional support for new schools who are joining our movement. When students in your program become credentialed teachers and return to your community, they are instrumental in keeping your teacher pipeline alive with mentorship of the next generation of students.
Educators Rising is the foundation of your community’s solution.

An ideal program will include supports that include:

1. **HS Graduation Signing Day + Contract Guarantee**

2. **Start Educators Rising Chapter/CTSO Program**

3. **Educators Rising Teachers Prepare to Mentor Future Educators**

4. **Enroll in an EPP with a Collegiate CTSO or Support**

5. **Apprenticeship Model Established to Support Parapro to achieve license**

6. **Practicum Teaching in Home District**

7. **Students Graduate with Teaching Credential**

8. **Students begin work in home district**

9. **Fully Implement Chapters, Curriculum, Competitions, Community, and Conferences**

10. **Students enroll in an EPP with a Collegiate CTSO or Support**

   - **FAFSA/Loan Forgiveness + Coop w/ Higher Ed**

   - **5Cs**

   - **An ideal program will include supports that include:**

     - (3) **signing days** for those pursuing an education degree after graduation;
     - (4) ensuring that students are aware of all current and future funding incentives for teachers;
     - (5) students seek out higher education chapters to maintain high levels of support in college;
     - (6) **apprenticeship** options are considered for students to be paid as a certified paraprofessional;
     - (7) students can **return to their home district** for student teaching;
     - (9) districts can **guarantee employment** for Educators Rising students who earn their degree;
     - (10) students who gain employment in your district will **mentor the next generation** with your Educators Rising chapter and program.
Grow Your Own is Powerful.

When districts reach out for hiring, they want to find candidates who were in Educators Rising, because they know that these students are that much more established than the standard new educator.

—Lindsey Jensen
2018 Illinois State Teacher of the Year
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