

GROWING



your Educators Rising Chapter

Sustainable Strategies for Getting Started

1. Get the right teacher to teach the course

- Be the inspirational teacher that draws students in—many students join because they want a connection to a teacher who wears their passion.
- The ideal teacher leader loves the field of education and shows that in their daily practices.

2. Foster Support from School Administrators

- Find an administrator who is supportive of preparing future educators
- Work with admin to secure funding
- Ask admin to promote your chapter
- Providing pre-educator pathway classes in high school and work very closely with universities on articulation agreements and partner with feeder schools

3. Competing Chapters/Clubs

- “How do I compete with BETA, national honors society?” While there are many options for after school engagement, focus on what will make your club unique
- Focus on community service to the school. We’re a school community service group and everything we focus on is within the school to better their school within and within the feeder schools.

4. Middle Schools

- Get buy-in from a leader at the feeder middle school
- Start recruiting as early as 6th grade – getting students prepped and excited about what they are going to be able to do in high school
- Work collaboratively on a plan to ensure consistency and sustainability from middle school through high school graduation – and beyond!

5. Institutes of Higher Education

- Partner with local community colleges for dual/concurrent enrollment
- Ask for colleges to come to your room
- Ask student teachers to come speak
- Arrange college visits



This document provides you a number of tips and tricks on establishing and growing your Educators Rising chapter at your school. Some of these tips were offered during our [25 April 2024 webinar featuring educators from Connecticut and Louisiana](#).

Growing Your Chapter

1. Reach out to coaches, athletic directors, student council advisors, Project Lead the Way advisors, AVID instructors, other pathway instructors with students interested in careers like child psychology, nursing, pediatrician, librarian, social worker, law enforcement.

- Ask other advisors to refer their outstanding leaders to you
- Getting student athletes involved to remind them that if they want to coach, they also must teach

2. Be present and visible to the school, community, feeder schools, businesses

- Teacher Appreciation Week activities
- Table at Back to School Night or any school event
- Hold childcare in your classroom or another area of the school during Parent Teacher Conferences, Financial Aid night – any event where parents with small children may not attend due to lack of childcare. Advertise this ahead of time and have students create activities and give students clock hours for participating.
- Wear identifying chapter shirts, pins, hats – anything with your Educators Rising chapter logo on it as a walking advertisement

3. Get Involved!

- Attend regional, state, and national conferences to network
- Share out pictures and videos from these experiences
- Social Media channels for your chapter and tag district and state level

4. Middle Schools

- Partner with feeder middle schools to start after school chapters so students are already familiar with Educators Rising when picking courses/get to high school
- Chapter officers can give presentations to middle school students
- Work to include feeder middle schools on chapter community service activities

5. Establish a membership committee

- Establish a committee responsible for recruiting and retaining members
- Increase the visibility of the club and the benefits of membership

Access additional resources for teacher leaders in the [Educators Rising membership portal online](#).



EDUCATORS RISING

educatorsrising.org from PDK International

More tips on cultivating interest in your school's program...

Course Tips and Tricks

Master Scheduler

- Meet with the Master Scheduler to ensure your classes are scheduled to allow time to travel to internships and when elementary schools are open.
- Create a “ghost” period that students can enroll in and be off campus at internships so the teacher can still teach other classes at the same time until the program grows enough that an FTE position is warranted.

Curriculum

- [Obtain the Educators Rising Curriculum](#) based on National Board Standards and aligned to InTASC standards.
- The Educators Rising Curriculum with a curriculum map, scope and sequence, student-guided notes, teacher notes and over 67 lessons in 1-, 3-, or 5-day formats with project-based assessments.
- Includes curriculum training for two users per site
- Don't recreate the wheel. Education and Training instructors typically have more than one prep. Use your time to build relationships, not lesson plans.

Processes for Internships

- Build out an internship calendar of the days your interns will be in the field and share with partners at least two months in advance.
- Ensure you are following district policy and procedures when traveling off school property for internships. Provide permission slips when applicable/required.
- Send introduction letters to each partner teacher to introduce yourself and your program so they can start to get excited about getting an intern. Build those relationships with mentor teachers your students will work with.
- Think about personalities when placing students – Interns and their mentor teachers must both have a great experience.
- Expectations – Create a list of expectations for interns and mentor teachers so everyone is clear on what the intern should and should not be doing. For example, it is part of a teacher's duties to grade papers, but interns should not be grading papers the entire time they are in the room. Another example would be having the intern go on a field trip with their class, but the mentor teacher stays behind – not ok. Remind students to report these types of situations to you.
- Track hours – Educators Rising has a document in the Teacher Leader Portal to give to students to track their internship hours.
- Have a procedure for students signing in and out of your classroom when they do leave campus.
- Build partnerships with local partners to get students paid internship opportunities such as Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, childcare centers, after school programs, tutoring, etc.

Students Recruiting Other Students

Don't forget the power of student relationships—encourage your students to bring friends to a club meeting and learn more about the opportunities that students tell us brought them to the movement, including being able to compete at regional, state, and national events.

- **Word of Mouth** - Job Shadowing, Internships, Observations, Field Trips – Have students experience all professions in education - (admin, support staff, custodians, food service, etc.). Students will talk about their experiences and other students will want to do the same.
- **Spread the word** - Press releases, media releases, social media and tag EdRising, districts, schools, and state DOE; elicit support from other teachers or use school news to run a campaign video for new members
- **FOMO** - Students see other students doing fun things and want to join. Promote and share all you do and they will come!
- **Student Advocates** – Have chapter officers present at school board meetings, PD days, and community events like the Chamber of Commerce or city planning committees so people are aware of your efforts. Student voices are so powerful.
- Make the **initiation of new members** impressive and memorable
- **Encourage officers and experienced members** to personally contact new members
- **Build loyalty** with t-shirts, jerseys, hats, etc. that brand your club
- **Offer prizes/rewards** for students who recruit the largest number of new members

Even if you can't manage to take your new chapter to a state or national event, you can host a competition at your school that aligns to our EdRising competitions.

