

New Orleans Educator Project Abstract

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The New Orleans Educator Project (NOLA EP) addresses Absolute Priority 1: Supporting Effective Educators and Competitive Preference Priority 1: Promoting Diversity in the Educator Workforce. NOLA EP is a unique and innovative partnership of teacher training programs, including two local institutions of higher education -- Xavier University of Louisiana (lead applicant) and Loyola University New Orleans -- and three national non-profits -- Teach for America Greater New Orleans (TFA), The New Teacher Project (TNTP), and Relay Graduate School of Education (Relay). These partners will work collaboratively to solve teacher pipeline challenges across the city, implementing their unique teacher preparation models to meet the needs of schools serving High-Need students while collaborating on best practices and problem-solving. Specifically, partners will 1) recruit, prepare, and develop Highly Effective teachers to serve in schools serving high concentrations of High-Need students across New Orleans; 2) engage in targeted recruitment activities to increase the number of teachers of color; 3) implement activities to enhance the cultural competency of their teachers; and 4) participate in structured collaborations to learn from local and national experts and one another.

Through these activities, NOLA EP will meet three goals: 1) Raise student achievement in New Orleans public schools with high concentrations of High Need students by recruiting, preparing, and developing Highly Effective teachers, 2) Increase the number of first –year teachers of color in New Orleans public schools serving High-Needs students, and 3) Increase the cultural competency of teachers developed in NOLA EP.

NOLA EP outcomes include: 1) Partners will recruit and develop 862 highly effective teachers, 2) Teachers recruited and trained by partners in the NOLA EP are increasing student achievement at a higher rate than their peers, 3) 80% of teachers prepared by the NOLA Educator Project Partners are teaching in New Orleans public schools for at least two years, 4) Citywide, the number of first-year teachers of color will increase, and 5) Partnership will create a national proof point for how teacher recruitment and development partners can collaborate to meet teacher pipeline needs in a decentralized district.

NOLA EP will not only have a direct impact on the children served in New Orleans schools, but will also create a national model for how teacher recruitment, preparation, and development partners can collaborate to meet teacher pipeline needs in a decentralized district. As other cities' charter market shares grow, they will likely face similar challenges around talent. Partners will share project learnings through creation of a white paper, conference presentations, and site visits. By creating sustainable pipelines of high-quality educators that exist outside of the traditional district office, New Orleans can provide a viable model for other cities.