May 13, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
    Charter School Lead Persons
    Educator Preparation Provider Leaders

FROM: Peter Shulman, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Talent Officer
      Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness

SUBJECT: First Public Release of Educator Preparation Provider Annual Reports

I am pleased to announce the first public release of the New Jersey Department of Education’s Educator Preparation Provider Annual Reports. Since 2007, stakeholders across the state, including the New Jersey Higher Education Task Force, have called for transparent data on teaching colleges and universities and candidate outcomes. Now, the Department has the database in place to provide information on newly certified teachers’ certification and hiring, placement, classroom assignment, demographics, educational background, and Praxis II testing results. The 2014 Annual Reports have been developed in close collaboration with New Jersey’s colleges and universities and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education.

“As someone with experience in both K-12 and higher education, I can see tremendous value in making this kind of information available to educators and the public,” said Acting Commissioner David Hespe. “I want to publicly recognize our higher education colleagues who have partnered with us to create strong initial reports, which we will refine and improve with their continued input.”

This initiative follows a national trend promoting transparency and continuous improvement in teacher preparation programs. In recent years, states such as Ohio, Louisiana, and Tennessee have released similar information. New Jersey remains on the cutting edge; as Dr. Arthur Levine, president of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, states, “the Annual Reports represent a pioneering effort of collaboration between universities and the state to assess the performance of teacher education graduates and the colleges that produce them.”

In partnership with the New Jersey Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (NJACTE) and the Deans and Directors of our teaching schools, we have engaged in a thorough feedback cycle to prepare the first public version of the Annual Reports. In 2013, each provider received a draft version and worked with the Department to suggest improvements for public release. Dr. Claudine Keenan, Dean of Education at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, called the development of the Annual
Reports “a careful process for data sharing, verification and analysis,” and indicates that “we built a stronger report by combining our voices and perspectives.”

The 2014 Annual Reports include data on candidates who were prepared at a particular New Jersey institution, obtained a New Jersey teacher certification endorsement between September 1, 2010 and August 31, 2012, and are working in a New Jersey public school during the 2013-2014 academic year. The reports are intended to:

- Empower institutes of higher education with information to promote continuous improvement;
- Supply hiring entities with data about providers and their graduates;
- Equip prospective teachers with empirical information about their choices for preparation;
- Shed light on programs which are preparing strong educators; and
- Promote ongoing efforts to professionalize teaching and teacher preparation.

“We applaud the NJDOE for creating a relational database that links our graduates with their employment in a public K-12 school in New Jersey,” said Joelle J. Tutela, President of NJACTE. “Having this information is useful for targeted programmatic recruitment and tracking of some of our graduates.”

The 2014 Reports represent the first vital step to sharing more robust data and are not intended for purposes of accountability. In future versions, we expect to include additional elements such as candidates hired out of state or in private and parochial schools, survey results from those completing programs, and median student growth and evaluation data\(^1\) to provide a richer picture of teaching colleges and universities. We will also improve the navigation, accessibility, and functionality of the reports based on user feedback and new data that becomes available.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration with educators and institutions to improve this important resource. Please visit [http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/preparation/](http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/preparation/) for full details on report development and components and to access the reports. To share feedback or questions, please email rpr@doe.state.nj.us.

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\(^1\) Note: Individual evaluation information attributed to a particular educator is confidential and protected by law and will not be released to the public.